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HIGH TIMES

NOVEMBER 1985

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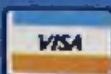
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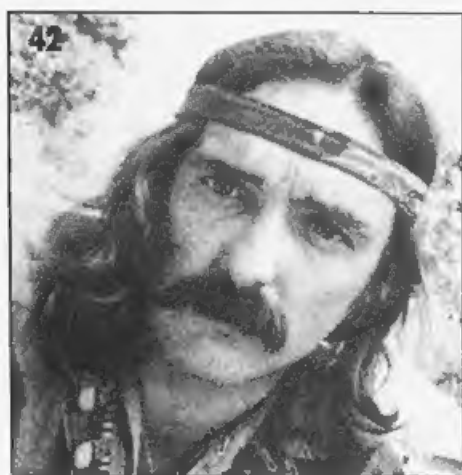
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EDITOR'S NOTE

● SOMETIMES IT SEEMS AS IF HIGH TIMES IS the only media voice in the land railing against the misguided governmental policies toward drugs in our society. But lately, several forthright calls for a radical change have come from some influential "mainstream" commentators. Most prominent among them have been the demands for the legalization of drugs by syndicated columnists Mike Royko and William F. Buckley. Now the *Wall Street Journal*, the conservative media vehicle for the power structure which wields so much clout in this country, has published an editorial by Ernest van de Haag, professor of jurisprudence and public policy at Fordham University, which argues for a more enlightened drug policy. A few excerpts.

● "Although I am a strong political conservative, I now believe that the costs of our fruitless struggle against illegal drugs are not worth the modest benefits likely to be achieved."

● "In a democracy one can regulate, but one cannot effectively prohibit, sumptuary activities desired by a substantial segment of the population."

● "Taking drugs does not necessarily addict you."

● "The current prohibition of the importation and sale of drugs has three major drawbacks: attempts to enforce prohibitions are very costly... prohibitions are ineffective... the outlawing of drugs has produced major criminal activity..."

● "My argument for the legalization of marijuana, cocaine, and heroin rests on the fact that their prohibition can be no more effective than the prohibition of alcohol."

While we at HIGH TIMES have been making the same points for years, we're still glad to be joined in this commitment to fight for a sane drug policy by the redoubtable *Wall Street Journal*.

From on high,

John Howell

Editor-in-chief



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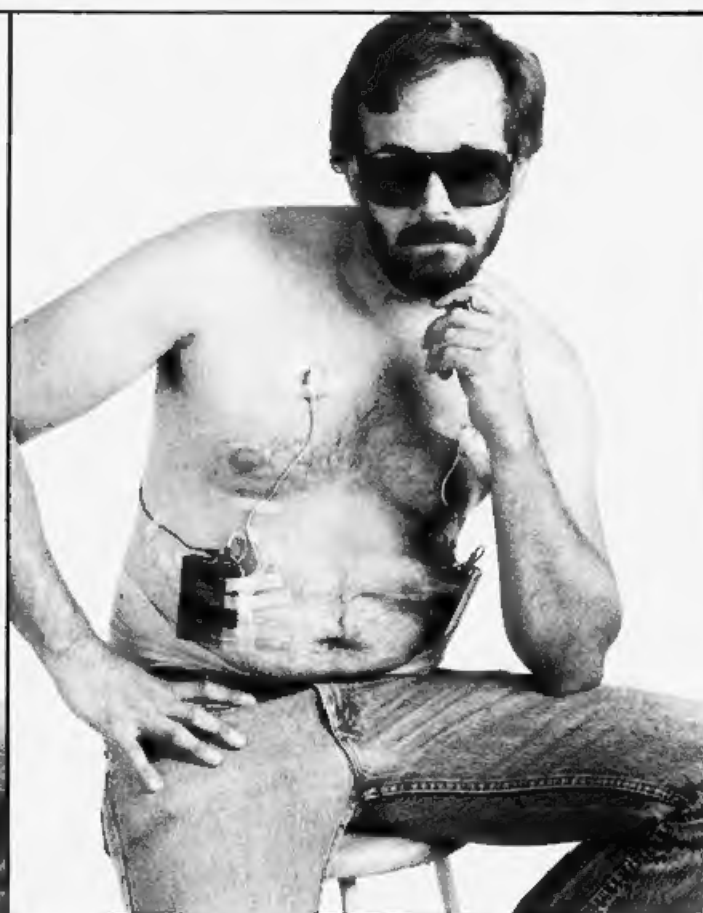
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LETTERS

NOTES ON CAMP

You have the exact scoop on the CAMP scene [the DEA's Campaign Against Marijuana Planting] as I hear about it—only folks are saying almost *ninety percent* was hit. Awful. People are leaving California for the first time in years. And going indoors. And underground.

I believe it will not help *anything* (economy, "control" of substances, etc.) but only cost the taxpayers mucho dinero. Please continue to point this out. It is the biggest factor *against* their camp.

—Jane Hunnicutt
Sebastopol, Calif.

WHOSE BEST SHOT?

We feel your Editor's Note in the July issue unfairly portrayed our stun gun as a "torture" device. It is the finest self-defense nonlethal weapon in the history of the world.

The New York City incidents were outrageous, but even so, isn't being "zapped" preferable to the permanent, serious injury resulting from clubs, fists, or boots? Having been zapped myself countless times in demonstrations, I can say that, first, though unpleasant, it is not torture; and secondly, being zapped is far better than being struck or knifed... or shot.

—Jack Glickman
Defense Research Associates
Santa Cruz, Calif.

Tell you what, Glickman. We know the lawyers for those kids in Queens who got tortured with your loathsome gimmick by the cops, to scare them off pot or whatever. Let's arrange for you to meet all those kids, and their parents, at a "demonstration session" somewhere, and you can ask them if they'd rather see you get zapped with your loathsome gimmick, or struck or knifed or shot or whatever. We also know of a narc-squed interrogation technique which involves nothing more high-tech than a fizzed-up bot-



tle of Coke, but leaves no burn scars whatsoever.—Ed.

NIX POT BIZ

I support the legalization of cultivating marijuana for personal use but I'm opposed to legalizing its commercial sale for the following reasons:

- 1) Nationwide abuse and social consequences will result, similar to alcoholism and cigarette smoking, due to mass availability in the public market.
- 2) Commercial sale would also mean government regulations controlling the potency of retail cannabis.
- 3) The tobacco companies will produce and market lower-quality brands to gain business from varying consumer ability.
- 4) A legal age limit will need to be established and enforced.

The state of Alaska allows its citizens to raise "maryjane" for personal use, with its sale remaining illegal.

—Edward Mendoza
Santa Rosa, Calif.

TRAVELIN' LIGHT

I read with interest the 25 tips on how to avoid a bust in the automobile (HIGH TIMES August). I am submitting number 26 for your readership.

Never visit a person in jail or in prison, or go to court, or other places where the authorities may legally search you without probable cause or "consent."

Last summer I tried to visit a client who was suing Los Angeles County for civil rights violations while in jail. A federal jury trial was a few weeks away and I wanted to prepare him for trial.

The first time I tried to see him at the state prison in Chino, California, I was told I needed an appointment. Next week,

continued on page 73

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● **Mary Stanley, 53, a farm worker from Salem, Oregon, quoted in USA Today.**

Cool Crafts

● Want to help support native Africans and have fun doing it? No, this is not another Band Aid/Live Aid/USA for Africa appeal. Our idea is much more simple—and more functional: imported head toys from the Xhosa and Zulu tribes. The pipe pictured here was made by Xhosa craftsmen, while the snuff bottle necklace comes from the Zulu tribe. They're available for the remarkably reasonable price of five bucks each (postage included) from Zulu Imports, Suite 1, 49 Front St., P.O. Box 291, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0291. ●



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SALES

"Narcotics traffickers are winning the drug war... A bumper crop of coca plants will lead to a massive increase in cocaine smuggled into the United States."

● Rep. Charles Rangel, Chairman of the House Select Subcommittee on Narcotics Abuse and Control.



ERIC CARTIER

Decadent Disc Dep't.

● A new mall-order record from Florida is causing quite a bit of controversy, which is hardly surprising since it's called *Champagne, Cocaine, Gold Chains and Silver Cars*. The title tune, written and performed by Pete Harris, has, according to Pete's PR firm, "been banned by every radio station in the country," presumably because it mentions the dreaded C-word (although it might be that deejays are loathe to play a song that lauds the hopelessly unhip "gold chains"). More interesting to us is a tune titled "Fishin' for Square Grouper," which has also been banned by radio stations in South Florida. We couldn't imagine why, until we were tipped that "square grouper" is Florida hipster slang for bales of pot that wash up along the shores after an aborted smuggling run, and that fishin' for square grouper is a popular and sometimes quite lucrative activity. Now that's our idea of outdoor recreation! ●

SCENES

● Once a city with a rep roughly equal to Cleveland's, Maryland's capital is now booming.

BY CRAIG HARRIS

BALTIMORE BATTLES BACK

● WHEN NINA SIMONE SINGS "Baltimore," she conjures up pictures of a fading city desperately seeking a more marketable image. The city that produced the great talents of Billie Holiday and Eubie Blake, where Cab Calloway "Hi-de-hoed" with his corner cronies that was the jumping Baltimore of the '30s and '40s.

Just before the '50s, Baltimore's Royal Theatre showcased live performances by that city's best local talent: the sophisticated mellow tones of the Ink Spots, the gospel and R&B sounds of the Whitman Sisters, the contagious drumbeat of Chick Webb, and the fancy hoofing of the Nicholas Brothers. And next door there was the Strand Ballroom, where the less sedentary engaged in evenings of hard-core bunion stompin'. It wasn't unusual for the patrons of the Royal or the Strand to end their Saturday-night entertainment with a nightcap at the Casino or to wash down an order of the Arhambra's famous crabcakes with a beer.

In subsequent decades, urban renewal hit Baltimore and the landmark clubs of Pennsylvania Avenue were torn down to make way for modern housing projects to accommodate lower-income families and the aged. At the same time, Baltimore's Bolton Hill section, located near the Pennsylvania Railroad Station, became the "right" side of the tracks—an influx of yuppies bought into the area's renovated co-ops, condos, and townhouses.

In the '70s, the city of Baltimore began to auction off many of its characteristic marble-stoopied row houses in the inner



● Billie Holiday, soulful symbol of the jumping Baltimore of the '30s & '40s.

city. Young professionals accepted the challenge of upgrading these dwellings to meet government housing standards. During a period of inflated prices in the real-estate market, Baltimore became one of the rare cities to offer three-story single-family houses for one dollar and a written promise to renovate.

That was only the beginning. Baltimore is undergoing a long-needed face-lift now. While rich architects are constructing luxury loft apartments in the Marlboro and Classic buildings, and renovating the Abell and Rombro buildings, another large firm is working on projects which include the renovation of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Memorial Stadium, and the Civic Center.

But the most significant change in Baltimore's appearance is undoubtedly the addition of Harborplace, two green-roofed, glass pavilions which house over 125 shops and restaurants. Like similar projects of James Rouse, Harborplace has been a big success, taking its place as a major cultural and commercial center of the city.

You can find just about anything you'd ever want at Harborplace. Take a tour of the various shops. Hit the boutiques and browse through racks of "go-to-hell green" trousers emblazoned with miniature pink frogs, or select items from Willi Smith's latest collection. There's a spice shop where you can scoop up aromatic old bay seasoning from apothecary jars. Use them to season the fresh shellfish you can pick up at Phillip's fish market.

Before you leave Harborplace, treat
continued on page 16

HIGH ADVISOR

THE STRANGE POWERS OF BIOFEEDBACK, CRYSTAL, INTERFERON AND THE MOON

BY COOKIE MUELLER

● I GUESS ALL OF YOU HAVE HEARD of biofeedback and biorhythms. I must admit that the first time I heard of them was along Route 95 at the Howard Johnson's where the biorhythm machines sat with the video games, waiting for quarters from travelers. The idea lost some credibility exposed in such a way. A pity, because it's more than a video game.

The uses of biofeedback are extensive. One of its most valuable applications is with holistic healing... and the lesser known fact that it can be used as a detoxifier for cocaine, tobacco, barbiturates and heroin abuse (anything that is at all mildly or potentially physically addictive).

As you know, biofeedback is exactly like what happens when an amplifier and a microphone face each other. The result is a loud whistle, a sound war. Each of them cancels the purpose of the other. The mike won't work and the amp won't work, but what is created through cross purposes is another electronic energy, sort of like $A + B = C$, C being the new creation.

Now, Paracelsus, one of the first fathers of medicine said, "Give me a chance to create a fever and I can cure any disease." Most people believe that fever is a symptom of the illness, when in fact it is a symptom of health. The body is fiercely acting as a detoxifier, working very hard on its own to cleanse

**In 1983, biofeedback
was first used to cure a
morphine addict, and
boy, did it work.**

and burn away the malady. So saunas and steam baths are fine. Biofeedback sort of works in the same way to cure substance abuse. A very simple example: when an alcoholic experiences a hangover and the subsequent DTs, the only chance for a complete recharge is to throw a hangover cure and the DTs back at the alcoholic, thus creating the "C factor," thus equalizing the effects of his misery. In fact, the resultant state is not unlike being high on a psychedelic, yet the feeling is much milder. He will see things with new eyes, the same way as a baby.

In 1983, biofeedback was first used in France to cure a morphine addict, and boy, did it work. With continuing therapy once a month or so, the addict stayed clean—even the desire disappeared. All he or she has to do is to plug himself up to the patient's, or the doctor's biofeedback machine to get his own physical sounds and electrical impulses thrown back at him or her. In this way the addict can be the regulator of all bodily functions—even the heartbeat. One person who underwent this treatment told me he likes to think no longer of his heartbeat as "normal." Occasionally he switches off to reggae, the beautiful discordance, a new rhythm.

I have heard only of this cure in France and now Italy, but unfortunately I've never heard of it in America. It's not like it's something new. Oriental medicine employed aspects of biofeedback before they started using fireworks. Oriental medicine also uses acupuncture and acupressure for detoxing.

Somewhere in California there must be scads of doctors who use the biofeedback treatment for drug and alco-

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HIGH ADVISOR

continued from page 14

hol abusers. Those Californians are wildly open-minded about any new health mode. Hopefully America will accept this practice along with the others. It should have a great future.

*Dear High Advisor,
What is crystal power all about? Is it an ancient knowledge, futuristic technology or ancient Atlantean psionic devices re-invented?*

—Joe Bones
Brooklyn, NY

Oh the fervor! The controversy! First, the facts. Native American shamans always carry their bags of magic crystals with them, and certainly it is a fact that crystals are considered symbols of power that could at one time have been the tools of power. Since ancient times, people use them to greater lengths than I care to imagine. At one time there were whole cliques of crystal gazers that spent hours and days watching their crystals to receive wisdom and power. Apparently it was much like a finely-tuned meditational aid. It's also a fact that radios used to use quartz crystals to filter, structure and amplify the waves picked up by the antenna. Today it's the silicon chip (a synthesized slice of quartz crystal) that filters and structures all the energy flowing through computers. Quartz crystals are a not-so-far-fetched part of modern technology.

(For a minute you had me wondering about the word psionic... but then I realized that you meant PSI with the suffix.)

*Dear High Advisor,
There is a resurgence of confidence in the drug interferon again among doctors who treat cancer patients. Why? Has something else been revealed about the drug that wasn't known before?*

—Susan Grindie
Norfolk, Va

Doctors think that interferon may be the most effective not used as a solo performer but with other medications. Yes, it was widely heralded in the late 1970s, and then all the hoopla died down. Disappointment set in when the interferon slowed down the growth of some cancerous tumors, but had no effect on others. Also, the side effects were horrifying. It has been proven useful in the treatment of multiple myeloma, a B-cell-related cancer of the bone marrow that hits more than 8,000 Americans annually.

Finally, these doctors are learning that not one thing is the answer, that the answers are always multiple. Most of them forget about the attitude of the pa-

tient to his own cure. The patient must first believe in its validity. Just recently Norman Cousins wrote an article titled "State of Mind May Help Cancer Patient" for the *International Herald Tribune* and the *L.A. Times*. To me, that "insight" seems ridiculously obvious.

*Dear High Advisor,
Is there any truth to the notion that the moon affects our emotions? Of course, we all know that there are supposedly more murders when there is a full moon, so there must be some validity to this*

—Louie Jacobs
Buffalo, NY

Well, I believe the moon affects us a lot, after all, we are composed mostly of water. In fact, our body is comprised of 80 percent water, and it is true that the moon controls the tides. Thus we should feel its effects. It's true that the birth rate is higher when the moon is full, and you're right, there is more crime, too, under a full moon. Just recently, though, an astronomer, Nicholas Sanduleak at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, tried to debunk the whole thing, citing 10 years' worth of data on homicidal assaults, with no fluctuations that had anything to do with the lunar cycle and biological tides.

I tend to agree with the psychiatrist, Arnold Lieber, who asserted in his book *The Lunar Effect* that scientific evidence supported such a notion. Anyway, I happen to *KNOW* that astrology works, so there you go.

*Dear High Advisor,
Whenever I smoke grass, I notice that there is a time change. What I mean is, I perceive time as going much slower than everybody else. Now, could it be possible that, since time really is a subjective thing that time has really changed? That it wasn't just because of my distortion of perceptions? My mother wants me to budget my time*

—Joe M
Address Withheld

There is a Nobel Prize winner from Norway, Mr. Heisenberg, who won his prize because he discovered the fact that simply the observation of a phenomenon changes the phenomenon itself. There's your answer. Wasn't that simple?

There are so many notions about time. Of course, it's totally a subjective thing. And of course, grass, cocaine, speed and anything that alters your state of consciousness changes your perceptions about the pace of things. Since reality is nothing if it isn't what you perceive it to be, then indeed *time itself has changed*. Understand? Reality is what you believe it to be, not what someone tells you it is. ●

SCENES

continued from page 12

yourself to some of the Chesapeake Bay seafood that has been a long-standing feature of Baltimore. At Philip's the variety of dishes is only rivaled by the options in dining atmosphere. You can put away a half-dozen steamers, or oysters on the half shell at a casual counter, or dine *al fresco* at the waterfront on a bowl of boiled shrimps with a spicy cocktail sauce. But I recommend stepping into Philip's restaurant/bar for the real thing. Have a cocktail in the antique furnished lounge before entering the main dining area where you can savor deep-fried shrimp stuffed with crabmeat, or jumbo crabcakes—the kind the Alhambra used to serve.

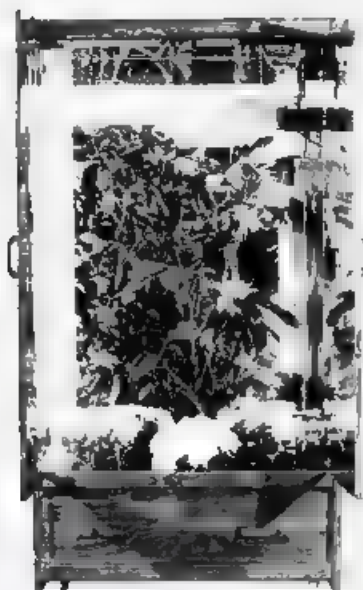
After lunch, you may want to visit the National Aquarium in Baltimore (maybe not), the Baltimore Maritime Museum, or the Maryland Science Center and Planetarium. All are within walking distance of Harborplace.

By now, you'll probably need a break from the high-tech chrome and glass of the 'new Baltimore.' For a dramatic change of atmosphere, the adventurous can walk a few blocks north on Commerce or Gay Streets to the 400 block of Baltimore Street, known as "The Block." This red-light raunch lane is well known for its dark lounges featuring exotic dancers and whatever else.

If it gets too hot for you, quicken your gait until you reach St. Paul Street where the ultra-modern Metro will whisk you away in comfort. Baltimore's new luxury subway system doesn't run too far though, so you might as well get off at Lexington Mall and get a feel for the 'old Baltimore.' Take a stroll through the world-famous Lexington Market where meats, seafood, fresh produce, and groceries are sold from stalls with Old World charm.

If you're up to a bit of nighttime entertainment, check out Chaps or O'Dell's for disco. If you're lucky, you'll be graced by the beauty and sartorial splendor of "the Moulton Girls" Yvette, Rodnetta, and Arnita. The jet-set threesome are the daughters of one of Baltimore's notable entertainment managers, Ra Akbar. For a quieter evening, check out the Left Bank Jazz Society at Pascal's Night Club off Druid Park Drive at Reisterstown Road, or Ethyl's Place, downstairs from the Theatre Project on Cathedral Street. Hostess Ethyl Ennis presents live music by the likes of Joe Williams, Ahmed Jamal, and Stephane Grappelli. And who knows, maybe between sets you'll hear Nina Simone's voice coming at you through the speakers, "Oh, Baltimore..." ●

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HIGHWITNESS NEWS

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WIDE WORLD

Dope-deranged solons to Army: "Forget Russia, fight drugs!"

U.S. ARMY FORCED INTO DOPE TRADE

by Charles Winston-Levy

WASHINGTON D C

DEFENSE SECRETARY Caspar Weinberger was all but called a "drug symp" by several impassioned congressmen recently, on the Congressional Record, after expressing opposition to a pending House of Representatives bill which would, if enacted, allow (or may-

be compel) the United States Armed Forces to adopt an even broader role in suppressing domestic narcotics smuggling. Although enthusiastically supported by righteous decency zealots of both parties and all races, the bill—which would empower United States military personnel to physically apprehend suspected dope traffickers, anywhere outside the U.S. borders, and take them into custody—was firmly con-

demned by Secretary Weinberger in early June, in a letter to the House Armed Services Committee. Nevertheless, a week later, the bill passed the House by an overwhelming majority. "Drug interdiction duty," wrote Secretary Weinberger, "would diminish significantly the funds and time available for military training. Our forces must be prepared to counter the destructive power of modern weaponry. Interdiction of small

boats and aircraft typically used by drug smugglers would not provide the realistic training needed to prepare most units to counter hostile military forces."

Thus Weinberger appeared to put a firm lid on the incessant clamor by politicians of both political parties that the U.S. military should involve itself even more deeply and irretrievably in the everlasting "war on drugs." Ever since 1981, when Congress amended the tradi-

tional Posse Comitatus Act, which formerly forbade the military to involve itself in American civilian law enforcement, the Department of Defense (DoD) has been compelled to make token gestures of cooperating with civilian law-enforcement outfits like the Customs Service and Coast Guard. Customs officers are now occasionally allowed to fly along on Navy and Air Force AWACS radar-plane training missions, to try to use their space-age snoop gear to look for low-flying, slow-moving suspected dope planes. Customs can also sometimes review the data from the Air Force's "Seek Skyhook" radar balloons tethered off South Florida, which spy on Caribbean marine vessels. (Ostensibly, Customs also has access to data from military LANDSAT satellites, but that's immaterial, because such data are useless for tracking individual ships or aircraft across long distances.) And when the Coast Guard gets a line on a dope ship in the Caribbean, military vessels and helicopters are sometimes used to transport their dope-busting crews to the suspected vessels; the actual boardings and seizures are carried out strictly by Coast Guard swabs, though with no military personnel present.

Even this perfunctory degree of cooperation with civilian narcs seriously degrades military preparedness, in the opinion of many professional administrators, as reported by the General Accounting Office in a 1982 report. The United States is not likely ever to be invaded by a flotilla of patched-up Lockheed Lodestars and leaky shrimpboats, and so this sort of training is worse than valueless for military personnel, the GAO report concluded, in fact, it's a monumental waste of mo-

ney and misdirected effort.

The worst-case implications of this arrangement were brought home forcefully to the DoD last January, with the conviction in Tennessee federal court of a veteran Drug Enforcement Administration agent, Harold "Slim" Lawrence, for peddling military secrets to dope movers. Lawrence made nearly a million dollars, over several years, peddling the secret Air Force AWACS training-flight schedules along the Mexican border to several Colorado-based pot and coke movers. This unprecedented breach of national security only came to light after the dope movers managed to get themselves busted for other offenses, and agreed to give testimony against this renegade DEA supervisor in exchange for reduced sentences.

Carry On, General

NEVERTHELESS, TINHORN politicians from New York City mayor Ed Koch to Vice President Bush regularly embellish their popular appeal by calling for an "all-out War on Drugs," using the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps, and to hell with any quibbles. Last spring it was Florida Democratic representative Charles Bennett who sponsored this bill to seriously expand the military's role in drug interdiction, and even though the Bennett bill was argued in the House a week after DoD Secretary Weinberger had already publicly opposed the notion, it passed overwhelmingly, thanks mainly to purple-passioned oratory.

"The efforts of the drug traffickers," Bennett proclaimed in his opening oratory, "are nothing less than a national security threat which must be met forcefully." Having thus set the backdrop of an America imperiled by some sinister and coor-

dinated cabal of international narcotics conspirators (much like the International Communist Conspiracy of bygone times), Bennett invited debate on his brave new initiative "to fight against the menace of drug infestation of our country." And to Bennett's obvious consternation, he actually generated a *little* debate, at least in the beginning.

Representative Tommy Robinson (D., Arkansas), who spent 10 years as head of the Arkansas state police, opened with a very obvious question from anyone with any experience of the American criminal justice system. Civilian narcs have to be extensively trained in proper arrest procedures, in the maintenance of evidence samples, and in giving courtroom testimony, Robinson pointed out. "Officers on ship might be called upon to arrest some individuals," however, "and they might be lacking in that training; and the end result would be that they would lose the case in a court of law."

Rep. Glenn English (D., Oklahoma) expanded on this with the observation that it generally takes nine months at least for a drug case to come to trial, during which time the arresting officers inevitably have to make several court appearances. "Is the gentleman absolutely certain," he asked of Rep. Bennett, "that the commanding officer could not be subpoenaed by the Court to appear, thereby tying up the whole ship?"

Rep. William Hughes (D., New Jersey), an original proponent of the 1981 legislation which sucked the DoD into drug-busting in the first place, was appalled at the notion of an entire Navy cruiser or destroyer moored up for months on end, while her crew and officers described in court the circumstance of a marijuana bust. "If

I were a defense attorney," Hughes speculated, aghast, "I would certainly be subpoenaing the person making the decision to stop and the basis for stopping the vessel." And who would that person be, he asked?

The bill's sponsors—who had evidently not thought very deeply about all this beforehand—responded that certain petty officers might be "trained" to supervise narco busts on the high seas. "You will have to train half the fleet," Hughes pointed out. "How can you tell what officers, first of all, are going to be on board a ship available to board a vessel? You would have to train a lot of officers, because we are rotating officers on and off ships around the country."

And they'd all have to be continually retrained in the ever-changing mysteries of giving prosecution testimony in dope cases. "The Drug Enforcement Administration and the other agencies have ongoing training programs just to stay ahead of defense attorneys," Rep. Hughes fretted. "You are going to restructure the entire training program of the fleet."

Perceptibly startled by this very pragmatic opposition to his muscular and righteous anti-drug proposal, Rep. Bennett first tried some artful animadversion. This whole business would be conditional on the Department of Defense, he pledged; "If the Secretary of Defense does not think it should happen, it will not happen," he stated firmly. "All he has to do is say, 'Well, it is interfering with the preparedness of the United States,' and there will be nothing to it."

Rep. Dan Daniel (D., Virginia) then pointed out to Bennett that DoD Secretary Weinberger had, in fact, said exactly that, in a letter dated a week previously.

Whereupon Bennett got

**Congressmen were aghast at the idea of a
Navy destroyer moored up for months after a
pot bust.**

downright incoherent: "He has not actually said that it does degrade the preparedness. And he also said a whole lot of other things that were categorically untrue, such as Posse Comitatus was part of the tradition of our country." (Posse Comitatus was enacted in 1878.) "He overlooks the great men like George Washington who put out 1300 troops to put down 150 in the Whiskey Rebellion of Pennsylvania." (Cf. "The Great Whiskey Rebellion," *Best of HIGH TIMES*, Vol. I.)

Rep. Daniel then asked a very thorny question indeed. If a U.S. Navy vessel were fired on by a foreign vessel in the course of a dope chase, what would happen? If the Navy ship returned fire, would that be a formal act of war, or what?

Now, Mr. Daniel," sputtered Bennett, "you know that that is not the sort of thing that people of thoughtful attention to what is good for our country say on the floor of the House." Since the simplest and most reasonable objections were threatening to make his glorious antidrug gesture here look ludicrous, the Florida Democrat now began to snipe at the patriotism of the objectors. "We are trying to use the great force of the United States government to rid ourselves of one of the worst battles and confrontations of this country," Bennett perorated, "and we are being out-picked

Worse Than Terrorism

AFTER THIS BIT OF SNARLING, the debate proper on the Bennett bill was effectively suspended. Bennett by now had given the House every obvious but unspoken indication that this whole business was a publicity show, and there was no reason to expect that his bill, if made into law, would ever be

seriously implemented by the DoD. "There is no reason to worry about this legislation at all," he said repeatedly. "This legislation is purely discretionary." Even after Congress has taken the extraordinary (but highly popular) step of demanding that the military physically involve itself in the drug traffic, surely the military will decline the opportunity. So this "debate" was really just an occasion for good old-fashioned self-righteous American political oratory: pure corn. And the corn grew thick and green on the House floor after that.

Rep. Thomas Hartnett (R., South Carolina) rose to suggest that drug traffickers were even worse than Red Communist Russians and economic depression. "The single most significant contribution, Mr. Chairman, that this Congress can make to future generations is not to balance our budget, not to eliminate the deficit that we spend year after year, but to stop the illegal flow of drugs which come day after day across our borders by land, sea, and air," he orated beautifully. "The mission of every drug smuggler is to destroy our economy and young American lives here in the United States," he rhapsodized. "We would quickly stop any submarine or any foreign vessel on the high seas whose mission it was to destroy young American lives here in this country," he declaimed, and then concluded:

"We spend hundreds of billions of dollars on missiles that have never taken any lives in defense against missiles that have never taken any American lives, and yet day after day young Americans are dying in the streets and cities of our nation from illegal drug abuse."

This inspired Rep. Dante Fascell (D., Florida), who followed Hartnett: "Drug smug-

glers have openly declared war on the United States of America," sang Fascell. "These outlaws have no regard for the dignity of human life, but only a greed for money. They do not care about the devastating effects of their poisons on our young people or on our future as a nation. It is time that we declare war on their crimes against our country. The military can and should play a vital role in this effort."

Rep. James Traficant (D., Ohio) indicated that he could see no rational reason why military personnel should be at all obliged like civilian juries to put up with due-process nonsense like testifying in court after they've taken people into custody. "There are going to be technicalities," he conceded, "but it is time that the technicalities are in favor of the law-enforcement personnel."

Rep. Charles Rangel (D., New York) asked slyly: "Are we really saying that if we wanted the Russians to invade the United States, all we have to do is to tell the military that this is a cocaine ship? That this is a heroin ship?"

But it was Rep. Stuart McKinney (R., Connecticut) who outshone everyone in the House that day with his triple-plea rhetoric:

"You know, you can worry about Russia and the bomb," McKinney told them. "You can worry about all of those things, but in fact, Mr. Chairman, this is the end of the world. Slowly but surely in New York, in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Miami, Palm Beach, across the entire country, our kids are being murdered by drug dealers. Is there any more important thing to do in honesty, if we are going to spend \$300 billion, maybe less, maybe a little more, on defense—what is defense without kids?"

And he furthermore said: "We sit there, Mr. Chairman, we sit there with five naval air stations, one naval base, five Air Force bases in Florida alone, with great American kids flying airplanes, learning how to defend us from a foreign enemy—and they are not allowed to interdict the greatest, slimiest, lousiest, cruddiest enemy we have got in this country, the people who would profit off of killing the kids in this country. Ask yourself a question. How many of those pilots, naval men, soldiers, who are giving their time to protect us, are getting hooked by these animals?"

And he prayed to Heaven: "Drug dealers are killing our kids. Is it not the job of the military to protect this country, its future, its kids, for God's sake? Please, dear God, what are we talking about? The Russians have to blow us up and we have to blow them up and there will not be any of this building to expound on. The drug dealers are killing us off. We talk about life for our grandchildren and life for our kids, and the drug dealers hit them in the restaurants, the schools, the country clubs..."

On the day Rep. McKinney was speaking, June 25, 1985, a whole plane load of kidnapped American citizens was sitting on the tarmac of Beirut International Airport, and so he wound up: "The biggest enemy is not those terrorists in Beirut. The biggest enemy is not the Russians. The biggest enemy is the human animal who sells drugs to our kids... Let them interdict the drug dealers and not worry about the Russians."

Moments after this orgasm, a vote was taken: 364 in favor of letting American military personnel bust civilians, 51 opposed, and 18 not voting. When the soldiers kicked your door down to look for your marijuana, this is how that came to pass. ●

"The biggest enemy is not those terrorists in Beirut... Let [the military] interdict drug dealers and not worry about the Russians."

MEESE'S MARAUDERS HUNGER FOR HEADLINES

by Joe Gillis

AS PART OF THE REAGAN Administration's continuing efforts to divert the nation's attention away from the truly serious problems facing America, Attorney General Ed Meese and his anti-drug stormtroopers launched an all-out attack on the pages of our nation's newspapers with a much-ballyhooed campaign against domestic pot plants. Make no mistake about it—the primary target of this campaign was not really marijuana, though there's little doubt that the Reaganauts have a pathological fear of the killer weed. The *real* target was publicity, pure and simple—screaming headlines that would prove the macho Reagan Administration and its porky pointman Meese mean business in their "War on Drugs."

Why else would Meese fly to the boondocks of Arkansas to pose for pictures in a blatantly staged photo-op, looking grun-faced and concerned as local Feds showed him pot-plant seizures (see photo). Meese's plans



● Ed Meese and potchopper pilot: great TV, but lousy law enforcement.

for a truly dramatic photo opportunity, which would have shown him leaping out of a helicopter to accompany the bud-busters on a raid-in-progress, were botched when the weather failed to cooperate. Overnight rains in the Ozarks and the threat of flash-flooding forced the timid AG to cancel his 'copper flight. Of course, if Meese was the gung-ho pot basher he claims to be, surely a little rain—or a *lot* of rain—would not have stayed him from his

appointed rounds.

Speaking of danger, one of the most-publicized aspects of this anti-pot blitz, which was code-named Operation Delta-9 (now *there's* a striking indication of the Vietnam War mentality that lurks behind such campaigns), was the supposed grave danger faced by the feds and their local cop cohorts. The pre-operation publicity inevitably included references to the fact that "federal drug officials expect to be greeted by 'dyna-

mite, booby traps using punji sticks, fishhooks hung at eye level, attack dogs and guns.'" (That quote, from Associated Press, appeared in newspapers all over the nation. The quotation marks AP used show that these "threats" came straight from a government briefing or press release.) As usual, Reagan's men were painted as gung-ho good guys facing danger and death at the hands of ruthless dope dealers in order to save our schoolchildren from the plague of pot.

Except for one small detail. *Not a single incident of violence* was reported in connection with the pot-plant crackdown.

While the feds failed to mention the total lack of grower violence associated with Operation Delta-9, they were anxious to trumpet their success in terms of numbers of plants popped in 43 out of the 50 states. The dopeland raiders claimed 342,738 plants had been seized and 178 people arrested. These figures probably sounded pretty impressive to the gullible members of the American citizenry. But upon further inspection—and comparison with last year's plant confiscation totals—this year's

POLITICO ALERTS POT GROWERS

by
Charles Winston-Levy

WASHINGTON, D.C.

"**M**ADAME" PAULA Hawkins, the beehive-headed firebreather of the United States Senate when it comes to drug issues, is widely credited on the Capital Hill snicker circuit with blowing Ed Meese's 50-state marijuana roundup out of the water before it even started. The colossal coast-to-coast pot-raid rodeo had been very carefully set up by the DEA, with an eye toward major media coverage, through intense conniving with local sheriffs' departments all around the land. "Tell us when you spot some pot," the DEA told all the county-mountie cop shops in the land, "and we'll come and help you rip them up, the second week in August, with plenty of

television news crews to make us all look terrific."

But lo, on the Thursday afternoon of the *first* week in August, Madame Paula convened a spectacular press conference in Florida, at which she announced that she *personally* believed it would be a wonderful thing if the DEA would arrange a 50-state marijuana roundup sometime soon. This reportedly greatly aggravated the DEA—who had tipped Madame Paula off to the forthcoming continent-wide pot blitz, because she sits on their appropriations committee—because now if they went ahead and did the job as scheduled, it would look like a *Paula Hawkins* antidrug initiative, not a *DEA* initiative. In any case, on the very next day, when reporters asked a nameless DEA biggie if a 50-state pot spectacular was being planned for the next

week, he confirmed it in a rather surly fashion.

So the inevitable happened. Scores of sheriffs, all over the country, *dis-invited* the feds to come into their bailiwicks after all. If the feds can't keep some spotlight-seeking senator from tipping off the dope growers of the land to a sensitive and secret narcotics operation like this, then the feds just aren't *safe* to work with.

For those cops who went along after all, the results in many cases were sorrowfully predictable. In Texas, for instance, on the Tuesday of the second week in August, the state police department's potaganda experts assembled a host of electronic and newspaper media, and bussed them proudly to a desolate location near Nagadoches to "participate" in a daring police raid on—nothing. In the five-day interval between Paula Hawkins' stirring press conference in Florida and this monster media production in East Tex-

as, some intelligent party had gone and nipped all those plants up, root and bud.

The Texas reporters had to be treated instead to a hastily-contrived display of antidope beefcake. Interviews with a special "task force" of five enormous state narcs who are given the awful task, each summer, of "eradicating" thousands of worthless rope-hemp plants. East Texas, before WWII, was the site of prodigious rope-hemp plantations, and endless acres there reseed themselves every year. So for some not-very-well-understood reason (a carload of rope dope would not get a person high), these poor narcs are sent out every summer with their cotton choppers in the 100-degree East Texas heat, working their blisters off, stripped to the waist. So even if Texas telly-viewers didn't get any fast-packed pot-raid action last August, the ladies did get to look at some brawny muscles sweating in the sun. ●

major crackdown is revealed as less than awesome. In the first week of Delta-9, the feds claimed to have nabbed 342,738 plants. Compare that with 1984's total of almost 13 million plants confiscated nationwide (an average of roughly 250,000 per week), and it's easy to see that the results of Operation Delta-9 were not exactly awe-inspiring. Despite a massive commitment of money and manpower, there were only about 36 percent more plants confiscated in this hyperpublicized crackdown than in the average week in 1984. In other words, the feds expended an inordinate amount of taxpayers' money and law-enforcement manhours just to confiscate a little over one-third more plants than they would have had they not launched this incredibly costly publicity stunt.

But for a few days at least, Meese's marauders did manage to hog the headlines of our nation's newspapers and precious minutes on the TV newscasts. And that's success, Reagan-style. ●

CRACKIN' UP: THE INSIDE DOPE ON NYC'S "SUPER COKE"

by David Harrison

NEW YORK CITY

A NEW YORK CITY POLICE Department raid on a Bronx dope den last summer uncovered a new form of "super cocaine" that is sweeping the ghettos of New York City. The Bronx narco unit confiscated 67 vials of "crack," a "pre-freebased" form of coke that relieves users of the inflammatory hazards of turning regular salt coke into freebase, using volatile chemicals. "It can be smoked in a pipe and give the same effect as freebasing," NYPD narc lieutenant John Creegan told reporters, "without going through the old process of purifying it with ether and alcohol where you run the risk of setting yourself on fire." (Such an accident resulted in the self-immolation of comedian Richard Pryor in 1980.)

Since narcotics cops are usually fountains of misinforma-

tion, we went straight to our street sources to get the real scoop on crack. For once, a narc had actually been on the level. "A lot of people was afraid to 'base 'cause of what happened to Pryor and to other guys in the neighborhood," one of our streetwise sources told us. "Plus, it was like some people didn't really know how to do the process [converting coke to freebase], and didn't want to waste no coke to find out. So like the dealers came up with a way to process the coke for basin' before they sold it. That way they could get a lot more people strung out behind basin', 'cause that's where the major money is."

Though crack only recently hit the headlines, it has been spreading through New York ghettos for over a year, and has almost totally replaced snortable coke as the drug of choice among young blacks, Hispanics and street-level white coke junkies. The aforementioned source was stunned that we had never heard of crack and shook his head at what he viewed as our total lack of street smarts. "Crack is everywhere," he told HIGH TIMES. "Crack houses are poppin' up all over the place, and lotsa people are hittin' on crack. I know ball players—NBA guys and college guys headed for the pros—who started out crackin', and next thing you know they can't even play ball no more; they just wanna stay on that pipe all the time. Same with some three-piece suit guys. They get off into basin' and pretty soon they sellin' their suits just for a crack. 'Forget about coke or dope [heroin] or dust. Crack is the drug of the '80s'."

Crack is sold in tiny clear-plastic vials—not regular amber glass coke vials—for 10 or 20 dollars each, and looks more like a minuscule chunk of white soap than rock cocaine. In fact, ripoff artists often sell slivers of soap in lieu of the real thing. The "super cocaine" is sold primarily in crack "houses"—apartments, hotel rooms or secured spots in abandoned buildings, where pipes are available and users base on the premises—but it's also sold on the street.

The actual nature of crack at

this writing is still somewhat in question. Dealers represent it simply as pre-freebased cocaine, and sell it in minuscule amounts—about 300-500 milligrams per vial—which furnish only about two or three intoxicating inhalations of smoke per dose. While it may in fact be freebase derived from ordinary snort coke, there's speculation that some crack may be a wholly new synthetic analog of cocaine, created by chemists working with atropine and petrochemicals. If crack turns out, after laboratory analysis, to be something of this nature, it's possible that its toxicity to human beings may be immensely greater than the toxicity even of standard freebase cocaine. (And some users report noticing certain differences between crack and ordinary 'base.)

The Bronx bust story was the first and only time the New York cops have gone public with the crack story, in spite of its plague-proportion use in the ghetto. Why have the cops been uncharacteristically close-mouthed about this scary new substance? It's the same old story: as long as a drug only plagues the ghetto, and its victims are primarily blacks and Hispanics, the cops—as well as the government and the mainstream media—simply don't give a shit. It's only when a drug moves into the white middle class that the hue and cry erupts from our public servants, and we suddenly hear about the danger to "the youth of America." Well, that is about to start happening, because hip dopers from suburban New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania have begun to make forays into the crack scene in Harlem and the Bronx.

"Yeah, I been startin' to see the cars with the outta state

plates comin' into the neighborhood," said another street source. "The white kids are startin' to get hip to crack. Pretty soon they be as fucked up as the kids down here. 'Cause that's who crack's fuckin' up the worst is the teenagers, both guys and girls."

It's probably only a matter of time before the crack epidemic spreads to the 'burbs and to other big cities besides New York. When that happens, crack will suddenly become a hot issue for law enforcement authorities, government watchdogs and the media. Already, CNN (Ted Turner's 24-hour Cable News Network), after getting wind of our crack story, called HIGH TIMES for the low-down on crack and quickly broadcast a story on their nightly news, based on our info and featuring HIGH TIMES Editor-in-Chief John Howell issuing a somber warning on the perils of crack.

One crack-smoker told HIGH TIMES that this new stuff conveys an exhilarating rush even more potent than regular freebase, followed by a devastating comedown that makes the user desperate for more crack. He then proceeded to reel off a string of crack horror stories, the common denominator of which was the overpowering addiction which, he claimed, almost inevitably results from use of crack, and the ruination of the lives of crack addicts.

He summed up his crack comments with a warning for HIGH TIMES readers and anyone else who might be tempted to try this "super coke." "You might think you're cool and can handle anything without gettin' fucked up," he said ominously. "But don't even try crack *one time*. That's some negative shit." ●

JANNY SCALUTO



COPTER CRASH SILENCES KNIGHT

Virgle Knight,
1940-1985

by Dean Latimer

EUGENE, OREGON

WE MISPELLED HIS FIRST name last year, when we wrote up the "Virgil Knight" episode amid the long history of last year's Oregon Marijuana Initiative campaign. We did not see his properly-spelled name in print until the obituary last summer, after Douglas County Deputy Corporal Virgle Knight died in a flaming pot-chopper crash—exactly a year to the day, most weirdly, after he had arrested Dianne Weiker, at the Roseburg County Fair, for "drug paraphernalia" charges while she was gathering OMI signatures, on the last Tuesday in July, 1984.

On the evening of the last Tuesday in July, 1985, Virgle Knight, 35, got into a helicopter, along with Douglas County sheriff's sergeant Gerald Churnik, 45, and pilot Ron Ter-

williger, 35, of the Golden Eagle helicopter service, contracted by the sheriff's department to fly marijuana-eradication sorties. A potspotter plane had spied a stand of suspected pot plants growing somewhere along Steamboat Creek, just north of where it meets the Umpuqua River. Although it was rather late in the day, they took to the sky and went after the weed, following the twisty bends of Steamboat Creek right between the trees. And when they turned into one westward-facing reach of the creek, with the setting sun directly in their faces, they evidently didn't see the PP&L power lines, 115,000 watts of juice 200 feet off the ground, strung across the creek. They crashed and died, leaving wives and kids and friends for *pot!* And the severed power line set fire to 25 acres of wilderness on both sides of the creek for some marijuana bushes.

Among Virgle Knight's legacies is at least a couple thousand dollars which the taxpayers of Douglas County will

have to shell out because of the Roseburg County Fair episode last year. Dianne Weiker, who with her husband Miche, runs a sort of a countywide dogooder outfit called Balance had set up her booth as usual at the county fair, the last week in July, 1984: the OMI petitions, some pretty, blue OMI T-shirts, copies of the grower's gazette, *Sinsemilla Tips*, (courtesy of the publisher Tom Alexander up in Corvallis) and a few cute little sets of old-fashioned gem scales, which the Weikers were given by a supporter because they look like the Justice scales on the Balance letterhead logo.

Sheriff Norm Neal could not resist this one. These pot-promoting dogooders were offering to sell *scales*—"items used or designed for use in connection with a controlled substance"—along with this notorious magazine containing "directions in the preparation or manufacture of controlled substances." That's the way the Douglas County "headshop" law is written, like every other paraphernalia statute. So Shurf-

Neal had Cpl. Virgle Knight go around to the Balance booth, all bearlike and softspoken in plainclothes, and buy some stuff, and then come back in his County Mountie outfit and serve Dianne with a summons for "drug paraphernalia."

Well, it turned into a royal tarbaby over the next year. Every time Dianne's court date came due, the county postponed it, until finally in January, 1985, she had to take action. She had to file a formal notice of intent to sue for malicious prosecution, because if she delayed any longer, she'd automatically waive her rights to sue at all.

This spooked the county counsels out of their wits. First they formally dropped the "paraphernalia" charges in April, and asked Dianne to withdraw her notice of intent to sue. She refused, and then, to her astonishment, she found herself being *briefed*.

Look, the county counsel told her lawyer, how much will Weiker here take to settle out of court, without any courtroom publicity? Dianne said six thousand dollars would be agreeable to her. They came back with a \$2,000 offer, and she dropped her bid to \$4,000, and that's where negotiations stood in late July—when Virgle Knight fell out of the sky and died, for the sake of marijuana, a year to the day after Norm Neal made him start all this trouble, for the sake of marijuana.

"These men gave their lives for it," Norm Neal tells reporters. "We'll continue. We'll be criticized about whether losing lives is worth it. But they felt it was. They realized the hazard."

There are plenty of people around Roseburg who recall Virgle Knight as a decent, honest, hardworking cop, and they say Gerald Churnik was probably a lot more competent than Norm Neal as a police administrator. In any case, since pot never hurt anybody, it's plain crazy that these people had to go get themselves killed over it. It's proof, once again, that marijuana does truly drive people crazy—and drives no one *more* crazy than the people who would never go near it, but feel somehow compelled to stomp on everyone who does like it. ●



Parade Pinheads Attack Hollywood "Drug Pushers"

Parade, the Sunday supplement that runs in newspapers all over America, leaped into the antidrug fray with a provocative cover story featuring the screaming headline "Does Hollywood Sell Drugs To Kids?" Need we tell you how the pinheads at *Parade* answered that question?

The article told of the proliferation of teen flicks that show kids smoking the killer weed, and took Cheech and Chong to task not only for glorifying dope-smoking but for actually selling the stuff (in *Nice Dreams*) from an ice cream truck.

But what really upset *Parade's* parents'-group mentality was the otherwise "quality" films that showed people taking and—horror of horrors—actually enjoying it. Among the films cited were *Nine to Five*, *Private Benjamin* and *Terms of Endearment* (the ultimate indignity, according to *Parade*—a film that showed recreational pot smoking and still won the Oscar as Best Picture). Most offensive to *Parade* was *Poltergeist*, which showed an upper-middle-class mom rolling and smoking a joint after putting the kiddies to bed, then proceeding to giggle and generally have a fun time while under the influence. What really riled *Parade* about *Poltergeist* was the fact that it had been produced by Steven Spielberg, who, *Parade* pointed out, is noted for his "family entertainment" films (such as *Indiana Jones* and *the Temple of Doom*, wherein, among myriad other acts of violence, a character pulls out someone's heart—which, we assume, is *Parade's* idea of fine family entertainment). That unsuspecting parents might take the kiddies to see *Poltergeist* thinking it was Spielberg's usual family fare (such as *Jaws*, which showed kids being eaten by a shark), and then be subjected to the degradation of the aforementioned mom-'n'-pot scene was too much for the *Parade* morality marshalls to handle.

Their solution? An addition to the movie rating system (SA, for Substance Abuse) that would warn parents when a film included "gratuitous drug use." To that end, *Parade* included a ballot whereby concerned readers could voice their opinions on the proposed dope ratings.

In the interest of fairness, we would like to give *our* readers the chance to let *Parade* know how they feel. So we're printing a facsimile of the ballot (as did the *Minnesota Weed*, a NORML publication) and we urge you to fill it out and send it to *Parade*. The address appears at the bottom of the ballot. ●

ARE YOU FOR RATINGS ON DRUGS?

Should the Motion Picture Association of America add an SA (Substance Abuse) warning to movies that show gratuitous drug abuse?

☐ Yes

☐ No

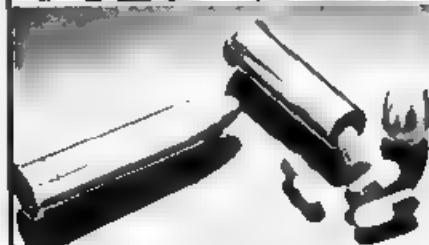
Should movies that favorably depict illegal drug use be rated X?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Mail to: *Parade Magazine*, P.O. Box 3954, New York, NY 10163.

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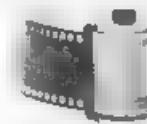
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ACTIVIST NEWS

DEAR MARY JANE

Dear Mary Jane

I would like all your readers, who think that the South and other politically conservative areas are the only places in the country where backward-thinking about drugs is prevalent, to know the true story. I am a full-time mom who keeps up with the newspapers. Over the past six months or so, I've noticed an increasing number of antidrug parents groups popping up. Accompanying this trend, kids are really being victimized. Not only are children receiving bad drug education, but now they are being forced to listen to it as well.

I clipped the enclosed article from what you would imagine to be a free-thinking Western state. It almost seems like a joke, but it is certainly anything but funny. What do you think about this, and do you have any suggestions as to what I can do to stop this latest trend?

—Losing My Sense of Humor

(Article Synopsis. A fifteen-year-old Minneapolis, Minnesota high-school student was barred from the school swim team and basketball team after neither of his parents showed up for a "mandatory" drug awareness program. School policy required student and parental attendance at an evening drug education meeting.)

The Minnesota Civil Liberties Union came to the student's aid and worked out a settlement with the school board. The high school agreed to drop the parental-attendance requirement. Student attendance is still a mandated condition for participation in extracurricular activities.)

Dear Losing,

At a recent conference about drug education, attended by prominent drug "abuse specialists" from around the country, it was actually suggested that a model program, called the Singapore Plan, be adopted. This plan calls for "treatment," i.e. hospitalization for children found with drugs. Record numbers of youngsters are being admitted into drug-abuse centers. A typical case: a fifteen-year-old girl who had an older boyfriend and threatened to run away from home was found with a few joints. Ah ha! There's the problem ("I knew it couldn't be us, Sophie")—it's the marijuana. She, like the rest who are "admitted for treatment," are not allowed to leave. They are literally confined until "cured."

I think that, as usual, the least defenseless members of society are the ones who become the victims. In this case, it's the kids. I suggest, in order to prevent such nonsense like antikids (excuse me, anti-drug) parents groups from springing up in your area and causing the institutionalization of ludicrous policies, such as what we see in Minneapolis now, that you strike first. Once any policy is started, it is hard to stop. Since parental action always arises from genuine concern, you must present concrete alternatives to hysterical gestures.

Form a "drug awareness" committee in your PTA, for example, and obtain good, solid information on how to set up drug awareness seminars in your community. Inexpensive and truly educational programs are operating successfully in many places. Unfortunately, they don't seem to get media attention. For information on such programs, write to Mothers Against Misuse and Abuse (MAMA), Mosier, Oregon.

Two places to get high-quality films and literature are Upfront, 5701 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 602, Miami, FL 33137, (305)

757-2566 (run by Jim Hall, former NORML Executive Director) and Do It Now (DIN), P.O. Box 5115, Phoenix, AZ 85010.

As a first step, I would educate myself. Send for a free bibliography to NORML. Included are books to specifically suggest to school and public libraries. You may also send \$3.00 to them or to Northeast NORML for a copy of the squelched National Academy of Sciences booklet which synthesizes all marijuana sociological and health research to date. It was published in 1981.

—Mary Jane

Although lawyers or other professionals may be consulted for accuracy, this column is not meant to be binding advice, legal or otherwise.

NEWS REVIEWS

OMI UPDATE

● AS WE GO TO PRESS, OMI OFFICIALS are busily counting signatures as they near their goal of getting the marijuana-legalization measure on the '86 ballot. All indications are that OMI will have enough signatures, due to the praiseworthy efforts of the OMI folks and a last-minute push that netted a number of new names on the all important petitions in support of the measure. Tune in to next month's Activist News for the latest word on this extremely important issue. And if you're an Oregon resident who has not yet registered to vote in the '86 election, please do so *at once*. Your vote *can* make a difference.

NANCY ASKS FOR SCOUT'S HONOR ON DRUGS

● AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 11th National Boy Scout Jamboree, First Lady Nancy Reagan urged more than 32,000 Boy Scouts to set a good example by staying away from drugs. "What excellent exam-

ACTION AGENDA

October–November–December

OMI Petitioning Blitz

Ongoing at Oregon fairs and festivals. For further information, contact Oregon Marijuana Initiative, Box 8698, Portland, OR 97207, (503) 775-9250.

October

21 Protest at Rock Island Arsenal

Sponsored by Disarm Now Action Group. 407 S. Dearborn #370, Chicago, IL 60605. (312) 427-2633.

31 Halloween Snake-In

Washington Square Park, New York City. Contact Gillian (212) 533-5028.

November

(Tentatively)—Student Anti-Apartheid Conference
Sponsored by Student Anti-Apartheid Movement. Write for

info to Neal Apostolakis, LPO 11973CN5064, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.

6 San Francisco votes to decide whether the city will appropriate money for a statewide marijuana initiative. If enough signatures are collected, the June 1986 statewide ballot will include the **California Marijuana Privacy Act: "Adults 18 years or older shall not be penalized for past or present private possession or cultivation for personal use."** (San Franciscans, get out there and vote!)

6-9 National Federation of Parents for Drug-Free Youth Conference

Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C. Honorary Chairperson: Nancy Reagan.

December

5-7 National Criminal Defense Seminar

Key West, Florida. Contact Kevin Zeese, NORML, 2005 S Street NW, Washington, DC 20009. (202) 483-5500.

This calendar is sponsored by the Coalition and other groups for positive social and political reform.

ples you can all be. Nobody can use drugs and remain a true Boy Scout. As a matter of fact, nobody can use drugs for too long before they can no longer be or do anything," said Nancy. Mrs. Reagan, who spent a total of 25 minutes at the Jamboree, said she was "pinchhitting for her favorite Boy Scout," referring, of course, to the President.

On a side note, a 15-year-old West Virginia Boy Scout was expelled from the organization because he told the review board he did not believe in "God," but rather in self and self-reliance. "We're not card-carrying atheists or anything," said the boy's mother. "We just feel you don't have to belong to a religious organization to know the difference between right and wrong." Justification for the boy's expulsion was based on the Boy Scout oath, which read in part, "On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country."

MINNESOTA NORML STRIKES BACK

● A SMALL VICTORY OVER REEFER-MADNESS type antipropaganda was won when WTCN-TV agreed to remove a PSA put out by the National Elks Foundations' "Drug Awareness" Council. NORML State Activist Ollie Steinberg referred the station to the Minnesota Prevention Resource Center, who told the station that the Elks commercial was misleading and contained claims for which there was no evidence. The PSA asserted that THC "can damage your lungs more in one year than smoking one and a half packs of cigarettes a day for 11 years." If you happen to see antidrug commercials that you find objectionable, call up the station and complain or write a letter. Unless they hear from us, they'll keep on thinking this antidrug stuff is okay with everybody. You can do something. *fight back!*

HOLIDAY GIFT SUGGESTIONS:

For her: Liquid Crystal Marijuana Leaf Jewelry. Changes colors in response to body heat. Leaf Pendant w/16" chain: \$6.00. Stick pin. \$6.50. Pr. of earrings: \$10.00.

For him: Solid brass, oval belt buckle with raised marijuana leaf: \$15.00. Prices include postage and handling. Proceeds go toward changing the marijuana laws. Make checks payable to: **Activist News, P.O. Box 20525, New York, NY 10025.**

The Activist News supports efforts geared toward creating rational drug policies, policies that do not violate basic constitutional freedoms. The public health, safety and welfare is best protected through an open exchange of accurate information that will allow individuals to make responsible, well-reasoned choices concerning their personal drug use.

The Activist News provides an open forum for public dialogue on reform issues. It focuses on the largest group of Americans disaffected by their country's antiquated, control-oriented drug policies. It is for this group of eight million American adults who use marijuana that this forum has been created.

Send your ideas, questions, calendar items for the "Action Agenda" (three months lead time), art work, poems, articles, news clippings, resources and funding ideas to support this project to:

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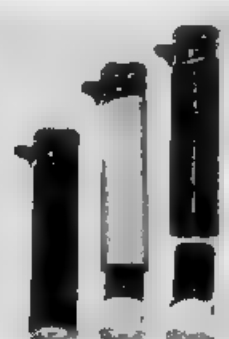
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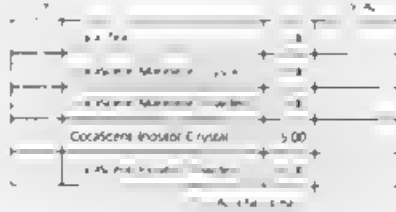
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ANALYSIS

PLANET COPES WITH PERENNIAL PERIL: SPEED KILLS

by Gene Wheelwright

IN CASE YOU MISSED OUT ON THE LAST COLUMN, we were talking about the various effects or psychic manifestations that you can assume you will probably experience behind "doing" or "consuming" any of the substances listed on the opposite page. We reiterate that the opinions expressed on this subject are based solely on the experiences of your market analyst Gene Wheelwright, and no one else necessarily associated with this magazine. You can rely on complete, unbiased, factual presentation within the format of the Trans-High Market Quotations, but the Analysis gives you the *biased* view that arises from personal experience with all these substances—so that at least you have both informational data and a leavening of one avuncular old tripper's advice to help you steer your own trip by.

Considering, as we were saying, that the *uppers* and *stimulant*-type drugs like coke and MDMA are currently taking up an increasing amount of space on the Quotations page, consider this modest hypothesis: Since the advent of what has come to be called the "Industrial Age," civilization has become addicted, *en masse*—in the same slavish fashion as any hardcore smackhead—to *speed*. Read Victor Hugo's 1830s account of his first trip in a 40-mile-an-hour railway car for confirmation that sheer speed—just your body hurtling through space, provided you're fresh and unjaded—gives you much the same kind of flash as the heaviest dope.

Think about it—the fantastically increased powers of locomotion that, first, steam power, then diesel-electric, then atomic, gave mankind to play with. And dig how, in a few seconds of geological time, it's changed the world. As we've developed our technology for the sake of improving our standard of living, we've increased our speed—which has had just the opposite effect of destroying our quality of life. So it's hard to conceive of how our lives may have really been bettered by the advent of such things as interstate expressways, supersonic aircraft, and computer-guided missiles, when you think of the price that's been paid and must continue to be paid in terms of natural environment and human spirit. *The faster you go the more numb you get*—speed inures us to the perpetual assault on the sense of our common humanity.

The starring role in the manifestation of

speed by drugs was once methedrine, whose most notorious subcultural expression was black-leathered biker gangs. Leaving aside legal caffeine, the current speed of choice is coke, which seems to have suffused our entire culture to the point of saturation (that point where something of similar appeal, like MDMA, becomes more "in"), and though cutting across all classes, is still mainly present where there's lots of extra money.

Now, taking into account the growing popularity of urine tests for making sure that no one is stoned on marijuana in school or on the job, it would seem that these tests could be utilized to doubly valuable effect by including in their analyses the presence of any form of speed. For example, in a world made maximally fair and efficient, anyone habitually wearing a three-piece suit or pulling in an annual salary beyond the national average would have his urine tested for traces of caffeine or cocaine—whose varying presence could be used as an approximate index of baronial magnitude. The guess here is that, with a rigorous and vigilant campaign of smashing porkbarrels by reducing criminal levels of income and stripping authority from those caught bearing a preponderance of speed in their bloodstream, we could come up with a cleaner environment and a saner world—and possibly even regain some respect within the planetary community.

Which brings us to the class of drugs we haven't considered yet—the psychedelics. The prime characteristic of these mostly organic types of substances (such as mushrooms and peyote) is that they heighten your awareness of and sensitivity to *everything*. Consequently, they get you high according to how good you're feeling about yourself and your life. So they come upon you bearing obvious moral implications. And, significantly enough, the psychedelics are commonly used *sacramentally* in indigenous cultures throughout the world, to strengthen the collective bond of the community by celebrating it as an extended family. And that only happens in the presence of something heavy enough to demolish ego trips.

So take it from your analyst—if you want to stay in touch with what's really happening and learn how to survive, and maybe even help out, in the midst of a crumbling world slow down and stay psychedelically high.

TRANS-HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS

UNITED STATES			
National Market			
U.S. sinsemilla	grade A, fancy, rare	oz	\$225-300
	now, high priced	lb	2250-3500
	domestic 1/4 Ark	oz	150-200
	Colo. & such	lb	1750-2250
Hawaiian sinse	premium prices—	oz	250-300
	but getting out	lb	2250-3000
Mexican	pseudo sinse.	oz	75-50
commercial	new waves.	lb	750-1200
Thai weed	"bow-Thais" com-	oz	150-75
	pressed kilo cans	lb	1450-1800
Jamaican	summer stash.	oz	100-125
pressed buds	'bout gone.	lb	1150-1400
Jamaican	dark, dry, rusty	oz	50-75
commercial	and earthy	lb	450-700
Colombian	dreaded	oz	50-75
new/b	dirtweed	lb	450-600
Afghani hash	funding the rebels,	lb	1400-1600
	one hopes		
Mushrooms	P. cubensis, sing	oz	50-150
	the body electric	lb	750-1600
LSD	white lightning	gm	3500
	he original		
MDMA, "XTC,"	new bod high,	one	10-30
"Ecstasy"	already legal		
Cocaine	avalanche unpur-	oz	1200-1800
	ties snowballing	kilo	32,500+
Area Bulletin			
Akron, Ohio	local sinse "good	oz	\$60-100
	to fair high"	lb	90-120
	Mex "sinse"	oz	90-120
	nothing special	lb	900-1600
	Colombo garbage,	oz	50-75
	pass it up	lb	400-500
	hash, black outside,	oz	160-180
	greenish inside		
	coke, getting	gm	90-125
	better, less cut		
	speed, "a few to	one	3-3.50
	the chosen few"		
Austin, Tex.	skunk buds,	oz	120
	"the best"		
	coke. "Miami's	gm	100
	finest"		
	MDMA, "Ecstasy,"	1	15
	yellow cap	100	700
	West Virginia	oz	150
	sinsemilla	lb	1450
	homegrown leaf	oz	25
	no great shake	lb	300
	Colombian reg,	oz	90
	ever present	lb	650
	hashish, rare	1/4-oz	40
	acid, dolphin	one	5
	blotter		
	coke or some	gm	100
	thing very like	oz	1600
	moonshine price	gal	25-30
	doubled in 2 yrs.		
Brawley, Calif.	Thai, loose	1/4 oz	25
	opium-sprinkled	oz	150
Denver	3rd-generation	oz	180
	Afghani buds		
	Mexican redbud.	oz	80
	casentia, smoke	lb	800
	Tahitian, "good	oz	150
	pot, not fancy"		
	mushrooms, home-	1/4-oz	30
	grown cubensis		
	acid Grateful Dead	one	5
	20th anniversary	100	125
	white lightning	1000	950
	coke pure rock,	gm	115
	Peruvian	oz	1950
	Mexican marsh,	oz	120
	pressed "sinse"	1/2-lb	250
	shrooms, hand	gm	5
	home-picked		
	cocaine, "trampled	gm	120
	over & over		
	crank crushed	1/4-gm	25
	pills, yuckola		
Eugene, Ore.	Oregon sinse	oz	75-150
	skunk bud"	lb	1000-2000
	Thai green bud	oz	75-200
	Thai gold bud	oz	190-250
		lb	950-1500
Colombian "red,"	unaffordable	oz	200
hash, red &		gm	5-10
blond Leb		lb	1500
LSD, "white		one	2-5
lightning"			
cocaine, "50-50"		gm	100-150
Speed, hi-grade		gm	100-200
"meth crystal"			
Imported indica,		oz	200
"stupor skunk"			
sativa, red-		oz	120
haired aguna			
commercial,		oz	50-55
brown stuff			
coke Peruvian		gm	100
"high roller"		3 1/2-gm	320
coke "strip pow-		gm	90-100
der" no rocks			
Calif sinse buds,		oz	100
"1st class sticky			
shrooms," scarce		oz	.25-.40
and expensive"			
coke A1A		gm	85-90
seductive shale			
coke like a door-		gm	50-60
mat 25% pure			
Jamaican, aromatic,		oz	200
good gan		1/4-lb	650
Mexican, pressed		oz	100
buds, red hairs		lb	900
Thai, overrated,		oz	150
14" stems, seedy			
Colombo, dreaded		oz	60
dirtweed		lb	600
LSD, gold dolphin		one	4
on 25 blotters		100	200
coke, walnut-sized		gm	100
rocks, yellow core		oz	2000
imported bud, "dry,		oz	80
but still high"		lb	1000
mushrooms,		oz	40
"primo"			
LSD, red-heart win-		one	3
dowpane, "atomic"			
LSD, cool tube		one	3
blotter, "weak"			
"mesc" blue		10	25
"okay"			
sinsemilla, "origin		oz	140-160
unknown"			
homegrown buds,		oz	120
"decent"			
indica, seedy		oz	135
"shrooms, non-		gm	10-15
descript but real			
mescalin, purple		one	5-6
micro-dot			
acid, plain blotter,		one	8-10
"very rare"			
coke, "crap to		gm	100-120
great"			
Hawaiian buds,		oz	260-300
empyrean heights		lb	2600-3000
California sinse-		oz	250-300
milla, very rare		lb	2800-3200
Thai, pressed kilos,		oz	150-.75
"bongo bows"		lb	1450-1800
"Lamb Jam" high		oz	125
wind in Jamaica		lb	1300
Mexican long,		oz	100-150
stems, center cut		lb	900-1200
Mexican medium,		oz	100-.50
dense budlets		lb	770-1200
"Belize belles,"		lb	770-900
brown buds			
Afghani black hash		lb	1400-1600
cocaine Colombo,		oz	1600-1800
ivory snow		1/4-lb	5200-5600
cocaine "Brazilian		oz	1600-1800
gold, unrar allure		1/4-lb	5200-5600
coke, wholesale		3 1/2-gm	197
warehouse		oz	500
N.C. piedmont		oz	130-160
sinsemilla		lb	1200-1400
coke "good flake"		3 1/2-gm	300
		oz	2000
sinsemilla tops,		lb	850
good bud dy			
ganp (two pump)"		oz	200
indica buds,		oz	120
innocuous			
Mexican, hi-grade,		oz	100
moist as mist			
Mexican, lo-grade,		oz	60
dry as dust			
P. cubensis ol		oz	30-60
fuck'n reliable!"			
LSD, red or blue		one	5
pyramids, 50-mcg			
LSD, moon & star		one	5
"juicy little hits"			
Valium, blue 10-mg,		one	1
blown-down blooz			
MDMA, real thing		one	15-30
"no nummies"			
swamp buds,		oz	200
musky indica			
"organic indica out,"		gm	35
sticky fingers		1/4-oz	250
CANADA (Central)			
Domestic sinse	homegrown tops	oz	\$75-125
	"well worth it"	lb	700-1,200
	leftover leaf, "for	oz	20-50
	retired yuppies"	lb	200-500
Mexican "sinse"	getting out to	oz	50-250
	the boondocks	lb	1750-2250
Colombian	seedy commersh—	oz	150-150
	don't bother	lb	900-1500
Afghani hash	"black— watch	gm	10-20
	for represses"	oz	200-300
		lb	2750-3500
Mushrooms	cultivated cubensis,	gm	10-20
	"have to be	oz	150-250
	searched-out"	lb	1600-2400
Acid	white blotters,	one	5
	"nice and clean"		
	microdots careful	one	5
	could be anything"		
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC			
domestic weed	sticky, few seeds,	oz	\$27
	severe paranoia		
FRANCE			
Paris—			
Moroccan hash	beware Les Halles	1 1/4-gm F	100
	dope bazaar		
Colombian weed	1/2 seeds & stems,	1/4-oz	100
	pis-poor in Paris		
Marseilles—			
Moroccan hash	oily black	3-4 gm	12-16
Ghanalan hash	1/2 seeds—dark, old,	3-gm	10
	almost rotten		
THE NETHERLANDS			
Turkish hash	the best breath	gm	\$7
	takingly "clear"		
Moroccan hash	multiple grades	gm	1.40-5
	no tea-houses		
Lebanese hash	price beahs	gm	4-30
	current quality		
Colambian hash	'coyote black"	gm	3
Afghani hash	borderline	gm	3
Jamaican hash	pressed shit	gm	1
		100-gm	15
Thai sinsemilla	superdupe	gm	3.50-4.50
Malawi weed	African dream	gm	3
Filipino grass	good stuff	gm	2.40
Mexican grass	Acapulcan	gm	2.40
Panama weed	dark buds	gm	2.40
S. African weed	"Durban poison"	gm	2-3
Nigerian grass	if nothing else	gm	1-2
Colombo	bad	gm	1-1.50
LSD	pink-panther biots	one	7
cocaine	sneaze city	gm	45-70

Trans-High Market Quotations publishes the most current and relevant dope data. Send your reliable and unbiased information to THMQ, c/o HIGH TIMES, 17 West 60th Street, New York, NY 10023.

ABUSE FOLIO

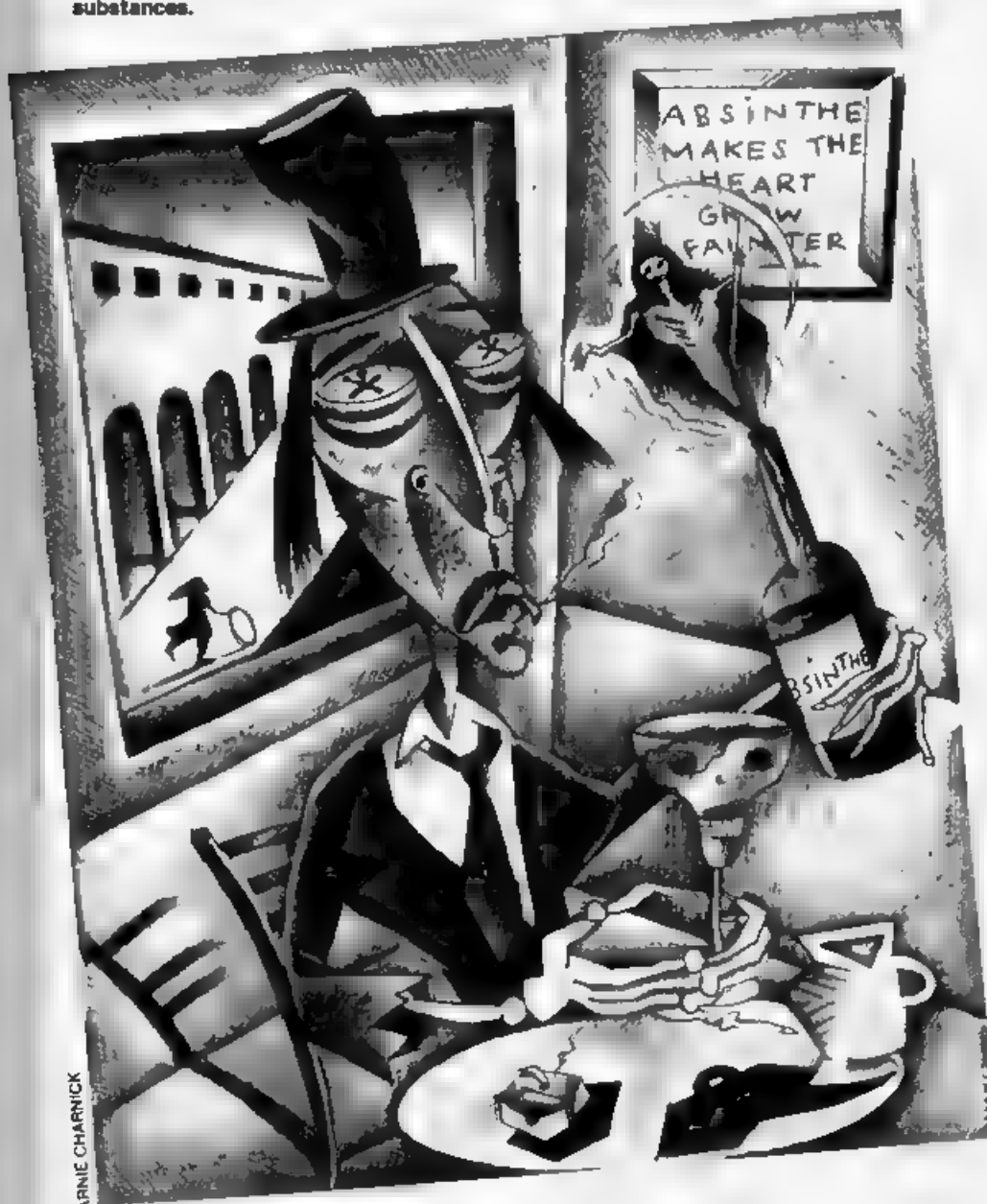
Medical advice by David E. Smith, M.D. Written by David E. Smith and Rick Seymour of the Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic. The authors do not advocate the use of any psychoactive substances.

■ Absinthe

hallucinogenic,

aphrodisiac (?) and

bad-trip drink.



ABSINTHE

CHARGES

● Absinthe adversely affects the digestion and may cause anorexia and intense thirst. Users are reported to experience anxiety, depression and fatigue. Chronic use of the drug can cause damage to the optic nerve, vertigo, both auditory and visual hallucinations, sexual dysfunction, epileptic convul-

sions, sleep disorders, psychosis, speaking difficulty, aggressive behavior, nausea, vomiting and kidney dysfunction. According to the prestigious *American Journal of Pharmacy*, "It is an ignoble poison, destroying life not until it has more or less brutalized its votaries, and made driving idiots of them."¹

NATURE AND USE

● The principal ingredient in absinthe is an herb called *artemisia absinthium*, better known as wormwood. Mixed with wine, the herb has been used medicinally since antiquity.² By the 15th century, the essential oil *oleum absinthii* was being distilled. The herb's active ingredient, thujone, wasn't identified until the early 19th century. Thujone, an isomer of camphor, which is very similar to the tannacetone found in tansy and the salvanol found in sage, is now classified as a convulsant poison. Although it is classified as a poison, however, biochemists have suggested that thujone is similar in structure and effects to tetrahydrocannabinol, the primary active ingredient in marijuana and hashish. It has been further suggested that both molecules occupy the same receptor site in the central nervous system.²

The concoction that came to be known popularly as absinthe was supposedly invented in the late 1700s by a French doctor in Switzerland. It became well known in the area around Couvet, Switzerland, as a general tonic, and many cures were attributed to its use. In 1797, Henri-Louis Pernod bought the formula and continued to manufacture absinthe into the 20th century. The Pernod family corporation still produces an alcoholic drink called pernod or pastis that is similar in formula, but does not contain wormwood. Pernod is perhaps the most popular aperitif sold in France and other parts of Western Europe.

The liqueur was concocted by steeping the essential oils of wormwood, angelica, anise, marjoram and calamus in alcohol and distilling the result. Although the predominant smell and taste was that of the licorice-like anise, flavoring and coloring was added. The French set great store by getting the color just right and used a variety of materials including indigo, turmeric green, hyssop, nettles, aniline-green or copper sulfate to achieve the precise olive-green.³ When water was added, the liqueur turned a milky greenish-white. The alchemy of this process was described in detail by Ernest Hemingway in his novel

continued on page 72

Seasons Greetings from

**MAUI'S
FINEST**

*'Tis the season to be jolly, It's harvest time
here on Maui, Strike a match, join the
chorus, Hang loose, down comes the
forest!*

*Get in on the festive spirit and proudly wear an
authentic full color reproduction
of Maui's most famous
product!*



*These high-quality designer shirts, caps, and
packs have the colorful Season's Greetings "bud wreath"
on backs or fronts (ladies) with leaf type on pockets and sleeves.*

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lt. blu navy ryl. blu
tan . 12.00
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red blk grn prpl . . 19.00
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pnk. 11.00
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wht yel pnk blu . . . 13.00
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ALLOW 4-8 WEEKS DELIVERY

WARNING: DO NOT SMOKE T-SHIRT SURGEONS HAVE DETERMINED THIS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH



MDMA

**Ecstasy:
The
Truth
About**

● MDMA, or “ecstasy” as it’s commonly known, has caused more heated headlines—and more hasty government action—than any substance since LSD. Here’s the *truth* about America’s hottest high. HIGH TIMES contributing editor DAVID HERSHKOVITS interviews Rick Seymour, of the Haight-Ashbury Medical Clinic in San Francisco, who has just published an authoritative account of the history and current status of “the love drug,” *Is Ecstasy Spelled MDMA?* (Longmeadow Press, Stamford, Conn., due out now).

Illustrations by Gary Panter

HIGH TIMES: *Why did you write this book?*

Rick Seymour: I feel that MDMA, or Ecstasy, is going through something that's going to be very important, legally, in terms of the way experimental psychoactive drugs are handled in this country.

How are they handled now?

In 1974 the federal government set up a new system for dealing with psychoactive substances. Essentially, they set up a classification of psychoactive drugs consisting of five groups or schedules. It's a list of drugs and drug components. The least dangerous is Schedule V: preparations which have small quantities of opiates or opioids that either require a prescription or require proof from the buyers that they're over the statutory age of consent. The closest thing there is to an over-the-counter drug. Then they go on up, on a basis of abuse potential, to Schedule II. From Schedule V to Schedule II they all have medical uses. So Schedule V are the drugs with the lowest abuse potential; Schedule II are the drugs with high abuse potential. That's where you find most of the amphetamines, the barbituates, and pure codeine. Codeine's on Schedule II. Then you've got Schedule I, which are the drugs that have a high abuse potential, are considered dangerous, and have no medical use. That's where you've got heroin, for example; marijuana is up there, and all the drugs like LSD, mescaline, psilocybin, peyote, MDA.

And now MDMA

Right.

What does this mean as far as the future in terms of MDMA?

Last year an amendment was put on to the federal drug laws by Congress giving the Drug Enforcement Administration the authority to impose a one-year Schedule I classification on a previously unscheduled drug if they feel it constitutes a clear and present danger. That was set up to deal with the designer drugs which are mostly analogs of the very strong heroin-like drugs.

What are designer drugs?

The way that I've been defining designer drugs is that they are drugs in which the essential psychoactive qualities are maintained and the molecular structure is changed in order to avoid prosecution under the federal scheduling register.

Are they replicas of existing drugs that occur naturally?

Yeah. For example, you take fentanyl, which is a drug that's used in hospitals. It's a Schedule II analgesic, very powerful, much more potent than heroin, in fact. The chemist simply changes the formula a little bit and makes fentanyls which nobody's ever heard of before, and it's neither legal nor illegal. You can go on the street and try to sell it and if the DEA tries to bust you, you can say, this is not an illegal drug.

Very often they don't even know what it is themselves and only after months of researching it and testing it are they able to determine that.

Right. So then they pass a law saying alpha-

methyl-fentanyl is Schedule I. So the chemist goes back to the drawing board; one conjures up a new version. Presto: three-methyl-fentanyl, same effect as alpha-methyl, but legal, for the time being.

It seems like this sets up a situation where there are dozens or hundreds of possible derivatives.

Yes! This is the spot enforcement found itself in trying to bust what they consider dangerous heroin-like drugs that were actually causing some fatalities and overdoses and not being able to do it. So the 1985 emergency-schedule amendment was set up so that they could put these novel designer-drug analogs on Schedule I as soon as they appear on the street.

Even so, the process and the money needed to follow up on all these derivatives and analogs appear to be prohibitive in the long run.

Yeah, it's a difficult problem. Some people even ask why they don't just put any prospective drug like this on Schedule I even before it's invented. But I think that runs

into basic constitutional problems, making laws against things that don't exist yet. It may be that this emergency-scheduling amendment, allowing them to quickly but provisionally schedule a drug for one year, may be the closest they can come to dealing with the problem constitutionally.

Which raises the question with MDMA, the first drug they've done this with: was this a proper exercise of that amendment, or not? *You personally feel that MDMA should not be included in this category of drugs?*

I think we need a new category to deal with experimental drugs when their abuse potential or medical usefulness has not been proven. We need regulations that effectively control recreational use, encourage research, and eliminate the danger of the drug falling under a legal stigma as a danger-



ous and useless drug, before that's proven. Is that the way the government looks at it, too? I think the government tends to look on any extensive use of a drug for recreational purposes as an illegal or abusive problem. We look on it more in terms of what it's doing to the people who are using it, whether there are medical problems, overdoses and so on. Are you seeing any of those with MDMA?

Yes, we're seeing some overdosage problems with it, though they haven't so far appeared to be life-threatening.

People often compare MDMA to LSD.

Right. They ask, Is this the new acid? But it differs in many important ways. For one thing, it doesn't have the hallucinogenic quality that LSD has.

Is this true no matter how many doses you take?

As you increase the dose above what these medical researchers are using, they say, the

continued on next page

MDMA and the Media

● Unbeknownst to the Food and Drug Administration, the DEA or any of the multifarious government agencies whose job it is to monitor these things, a group of medical professionals—primarily psychiatrists and psychologists—had been quietly having great success using Ecstasy (MDMA) to treat their patients. Outside of the therapy circuit, private consumers were also enjoying Ecstasy experimentation.

Wary of letting the news get out for fear that it would spur public interest and attract federal watchdogs, Ecstasy proponents and users kept a consciously low profile. A few years ago, the only research article evaluating the drug's experimental treatment was circulated hand-to-hand in manuscript form among colleagues engaged in its use.

A consciousness-affective drug often (and mistakenly) compared to LSD, Ecstasy was prone to being lumped in as a "psychedelic," a word that has taken on pejorative connotations, according to Rick Seymour of the Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic. "From the point of view of the general public (and the government)," he said, "psychedelic drugs are considered to be dangerous substances."

The lessons of history with regard to LSD use in America have not been ignored. Once legal and administered by medical professionals, LSD became a widely-abused recreational drug due largely to the efforts of a few evangelical acidheads who advocated

its use to a growing flock of converts. As it became more popular the government declared it illegal and listed it in the same category as heroin and opiates. Once there were hundreds of research projects being done with LSD, now there is only one.

The great fear of the medical professionals was that (LSD) history would repeat itself with Ecstasy. And it did. An underground market developed for the drug that was legal until this past summer. The sense of well-being and oneness with the universe that users have reported insured that word would spread. The name Ecstasy—apparently a marketing ploy of the happy chemist who first synthesized and distributed the drug—suggested pleasure beyond belief. Others called it the Love Drug, erroneously planting the suggestion that a dose would make men and women into the world's greatest lovers—at least for a couple of hours. As feared by the medicos, a coterie of advocates—not kids but men and women in their 20s and 30s—emerged who swore that MDMA was the wonder drug that would save the world. In Brazil its use became so widespread that TV news reporters filed interviews with New York pharmacologists to help understand the phenomena. In France, California and Boston, MDMA enjoyed widespread use. In Texas alone some 30,000 doses were reportedly being manufactured (and sold) per month.

What was once a closely-held secret became the topic of conversations, cover stories, network news reports and Congressional hearings. *New York Magazine*, *Newsweek*, *Life*, *USA Today*, and the Donahue Show all did stories about Ecstasy. As the news (much of it ill-informed) spread, interest among the curious grew proportionately.

One of the great advocates of MDMA (the Pied Piper of Ecstasy if you will) is Rick Doblin, a wealthy 31-year-old who has formed a foundation and hired lawyers and public-relations agents to defend Ecstasy from the onslaught of negative publicity, thereby splitting the Ecstasy community into two main factions. Doblin and his followers want to make the substance available to as many people as possible; the medical professionals accept controls but they want to be able to administer and experiment with MDMA free of the bureaucratic roadblock that goes up when a substance becomes listed as a Schedule I drug. The medical people want to keep a low profile on Ecstasy; Doblin wanted to tell the world.

Today the world knows. Today Ecstasy is illegal and those who use it are outlaws. "At this point the essential damage to research and treatment has been done," says Rick Seymour. "Now, I think it's a question of trying to do what can be done to develop a realistic (government-controlled) system for dealing with experimental drugs." ●

—David Hershenovits

The great fear of medical professionals was that LSD history would repeat itself with Ecstasy — and it did.

consciousness-affective, psychedelic effects level off; you don't get any higher, but you do get increasing stimulant effects with higher doses. So people who take a lot of it can get pretty wired. They can also develop symptoms pretty similar to what you can get from taking too much speed.

Right. Because part of this component, MDMA, is like an amphetamine, correct?

It's an amphetamine analog. So sometimes at the Clinic we see people coming in who are somewhat disoriented, getting anxiety and a panic reaction. Basically we tell them that's what happens when you take too much of this sort of drug. We talk them through it, and usually the symptoms subside as the drug wears off.

And how long does a dose last?

About six hours.

Why do you think there's a growing interest or readiness in our society to involve ourselves with experimental drugs? Are kids getting into drugs again?

The people we've seen and talked to, trying new stuff like MDMA, have not been kids. They've been people in their 20s and 30s, and not very many of them use it chronically. Most of them are people who use other drugs, like marijuana or cocaine and other stimulants. I've heard anecdotally, and read in *Life* magazine, about DEA reports of massive MDMA use among college students down in Texas, but I really don't know about that.

There tend to be sociological pendulum swings in just about everything. This may well be an indication that there's a swing back toward an interest in psychedelic consciousness that goes beyond your Trans-High stock-market quotations.

Might this be related somehow to the Yuppie phenomenon?

It's so easy to oversimplify and take Yuppiedom as the hallmark of the late '70s and early '80s, and then take a couple indicators that we may be coming into a sort of '60s

Renaissance now. That might not be bad, really, at least in terms of paying more attention to consciousness, and getting away from the sort of greed and profit motive that's been paramount for the last number of years.

Why do people use MDMA? Do they say?

People tell me it relaxes them, and puts them more in touch with their feelings and with life in general. They don't seem to take it primarily for the intoxication, the euphoric tickle. It hasn't got much of a euphoric tickle, really, which is why I don't think it's going to get too widespread as an abuse drug.

So its potential for abuse isn't great enough?

No, it has some abuse potential, like any psychoactive drug. There are inevitably going to be some people who overdo it, abuse it, get into compulsive use of it, like they will with anything else.

Is it medically useful?

After talking to the psychiatrists who've used it with their clients, and talking to some of the clients, I'd say it definitely has therapeutic potential.

Are there other applications for MDMA besides in a psychiatric setting?

Not really. It works best in situations where people are going through ongoing counseling or psychotherapy. It seems to be good in untying some of the internal knots, some of the suppressed psychic material that people are afraid of, and have hidden away from themselves: material that they don't want to face or communicate to others. The clients who've had good effects from it have included, for example, people with terminal illnesses who feel that it's given them the perspective to accept the idea that they're going to die, and to be able to talk about it with a loved one. Or in couple therapy, where there's been a large but unspoken buildup of mutual resentment, buried in both partners' psyches. Or conditions like the delayed-stress syndrome, and people who've been sexually molested as children, or rape victims.

Conversely, for people who are not under psychiatric care, is there a potential for these buried feelings that have been repressed to come out unexpectedly or in a shocking way?

Yes, and I think this is one of the dangers, and one of the reasons MDMA does need to be controlled in law, and should only be used in research and treatment by people who know what they're doing.

Do you have any examples of untoward reactions?

There've been cases where people have tried self-medicating abuse problems with it, but it's tended to help feed their denial system. They've gone from one drug to another, and felt that it helped assure them. I think some of the panic situations have resulted from people uncovering long-repressed psychic material that they couldn't handle.

How about MDMA and sexuality?

There's a big question whether MDMA has anything material to do with sexuality at all. I think the connection arises mainly because

Ecstasy Users Speak Out

● HIGH TIMES often hears from our readers the truth about what's going on, information based on actual experiences as opposed to rarified laboratory research, and here's one authentic-sounding report we've received about ecstasy.

● We here in Santa Barbara thought you could use our info on Ecstasy (MDMA, MDA) to date:

We first started getting it in '79 at \$8-10 per dose (one-tenth of a gram) and \$60 a gram. Our connection ran out in '83. During this time we were the only ones we knew that could get it.

Today you can get Ecstasy at \$15-\$20 per dose (for the real McCoy). Pill form is most available at \$10-12 a dose in either yellowish brown or white solid pill form. They weigh in at about one gram each with nine-tenths of a gram being cut with speed, caffeine stimulant and who knows what else. I'm not sure, but I suspect this is pharmacy MDMA, which is now illegal, so you won't be seeing this kind anymore probably.

The real good stuff is real hard to find, and like I said, it goes for \$15-20 per dose. It's in powder form, white, strong vitamin-type taste, no nummies, and usually good dealers that get this variety (without cutting it) get it straight from the lab, respect it, sell it for a lot (as much as \$30 a hit, yet still worth it) and will put it in the clear caps.

The worst and second most popular form is powder form—either white or yellow-brown—with a lot of cut. Usually the dealer will get pure white Ecstasy (10 doses in a gram) and add about a third of a gram of procaine

to give a strong nummie effect (one dealer told me it's supposed to get the coke addicts hooked). Anyway, after they're done stepping on it, they have about 1-3 grams of shit, which they cut into 1-12 doses which will probably get your lod sister or a dwarf off, but for the everyday drug taker you'll have to take two doses to get off. So in reality it costs \$10-15 a hit and \$20-28 a dose (two hits = one dose).

This variety was popular in November-December of '84. Then people started putting out the word that if it gives you a nummie, it could be cut with heroin, which isn't true, but it is pretty shitty!

And best of all—my friends and I never had bad trips on Ecstasy. The most "bizarre" trips were my friend's girlfriend rolled around on a bed, half-naked and moaning, for about four hours in her own orgasmic world, not responding to outside stimuli. Later she said it was her best Ecstasy time. (It was the first time she took more than one dose at a time.)

My most bizarre trip was breaking up with my girlfriend of two years on a flying Ecstasy trip. (I found her cheating on me, anyway, I really tripped.) When I cried it felt like a river was running out of a hole in my head—but it felt good, and I went with it.

Oh yeah! The trips I've never read about are the multiple-hit trips. We've

dropped three to five doses at a time either eating or whuffing our last dose when we start coming down. It's like levels (climbing stairs) taking three to four doses at once. Just when you think you've peaked, you peak again, then again—each hit a "peak"—three hits equaling three "peaks," get it? Anyway, after two peaks (doses), we all agree, it starts getting intense, not like a calm Ecstasy trip, more like a horror movie. You're scared, but it's fun. With true hallucinations—"a tractor in a field that isn't there" fades away as you think about it, reappears as you go with it after a while. You are in full control—but not with everyone.

One friend would always be "fooled" by hallucinations. "A dog's chasing me!" It might take him 30 minutes to realize that the little dog that keeps reappearing is just a dream, but we never had to tie anyone down. We did, however, use Valium to calm us down if we started teethgrinding and sweating.

But it was the best—although we stopped taking multiple hits, worried that our hearts might blow up.

That's the inside scoop from Santa Barbara. This is probably the way it is in most of Southern California. I can only say it's this way in Santa Barbara, Ventura, Ojai, San Luis Obispo County, L.A., and San Diego (Orange County is still into coke). ●

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● Nuclear Crucifixion, Alex Grey

GRAPHIC ART

WAGES WAR

AGAINST

NUKES

PAINT IT BLEAK

TO IMAGINE A NUCLEAR WAR IS TO THINK THE UNTHINKABLE. BUT IN **DISARMING IMAGES**, a traveling art exhibition, 46 artists have taken on that difficult job as a creative commitment to prevent nuclear war. "How does an artist think about nuclear holocaust, an event that has never taken place, whose reality exists as the threat that permeates all phases of contemporary life?" asks curator Nina Felshin, who assembled the show. The brief selection of art on view in these pages gives you an idea of the powerful responses to that challenge. From Alex Grey's religious allegory to Peter Saul's and Keith Haring's cartooning, from Sandy Skoglund's wry fantasy to Barbara Kruger's angry sloganeering, the message takes many forms but remains fixed on one emphatic demand: stop nuclear madness. ►



© Mame Babies, Sandy Skoglund

THE GREATEST HORROR OF NUCLEAR WAR IS THE DESTRUCTION
OF ALL SUBSEQUENT GENERATIONS, OF THE FUTURE.

● *Three Mile Island, Peter Saul*



THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE '80S IS BEING
SHAPED BY THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR.



Collection Carroll Jaffe

● *Untitled, Keith Haring*



Your manias become science

DISARMING IMAGES IS SPONSORED BY TWO PROGRESSIVE ACTIVIST ORGANIZATIONS WHICH PROVE THAT effective steps can be taken to avert the possibility of nuclear war. Bread and Roses is the cultural project of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, AFL-CIO, and was originally organized in 1979 to bring the arts to its members. Its programs have become so popular that they now attract national and international attention. Physicians for Social Responsibility practices an extreme form of preventive medicine by educating the public about the medical dangers of nuclear weapons. Both organizations have assumed these responsibilities in light of the fact that the aftermath of a nuclear war would make unconscionable demands on their professions: PSR even terms nuclear war "an untreatable disease"—which, among other things, it certainly is.

***Disarming Images* continues its tour of America with stops at the Fine Arts Gallery, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (Jan. 5–Feb. 2, 1986); Baxter Art Gallery, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena (Mar. 2–30); Yellowstone Art Center, Billings, Montana (Apr. 28–June 9); and the Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York (Sept. 11–Nov. 20).**

If you are unable to see the exhibition itself, you can order the excellent illustrated catalog from Adema Books, 306 W. 38th St., New York, NY 10018 (\$14.95 plus \$1.50 postage). ●

by Katherine Dieckmann

Dennis Hopper:
teen star, easy rider,
bad boy, gonzo
actor, writer,
director—bounces
back with
Easy Rider II.



The RETURN OF THE HOLLYWOOD KID



PHOTOS BY WIDE WORLD

"When I saw you from the driveway, I thought you were a couple of French girls," Dennis Hopper says in his familiar Midwestern drawl as he lumbers up to our table. "No, uh, American," I reply. We're sitting by the pool at Cannes' Hotel Martinez, and the motley camera crew that's been tailing Hopper up and down the beach for several hours now is circling us from a reverent distance, shark like, feeding off the eye-catching spectacle of a major male movie star flanked by a pair of enticing female ornaments.

Lillian and I eyeball each other as the waiter takes our drink orders. Dressing for this interview was a big problem for both of us. "If only you still had your wraparound Indian skirts and clogs on you," she laughed. Yeah, well, what *would* make Dennis Hopper comfortable, I wonder. How to prepare for the Great Alienated One, this guy so inextricably bound to rebel culture that he stood in as the quintessential hippie in a 1971 magazine whiskey ad. What kind of women does he like, I mean, other than the ones I know he married—Hollywood doyenne Brooke Hayward, mysterious Michelle Phillips, and the new-age nymphet from Antonioni's *Zabriskie Point*, Daria Halprin. Guiltily, self-searchingly, I think why care what a frazzled middle-aged

man thinks, anyway? Even if his guaranteed close-to-the-edge performances drew me to every movie he appears in.

Hopper requests a double-caffinated kick: coffee and a Coke. "Dennis does not drink," his publicist had told me pointedly on the phone earlier that day. Right—not since he got kicked off a movie called *Jungle Warriors* in Mexico in 1983, where he ran around the set bombed, naked and refusing to take direction (the latter a trait that got him blackballed from movie roles in the early '60s). That's when Hopper—whose peak consumption totaled an impressively death-defying half-gallon of rum, twenty-seven beers and three grams of coke a day—joined Alcoholics Anonymous. The notorious fuck you posturing didn't come off so winningly from a 47-year-old, and today Dennis Hopper is clean. But not *nice* and clean.

It's all too obvious that he's discomforted by a young, female journalist. He asks my name, lights my cigarette, raises a disbelieving eyebrow when I tell him I'm from *HIGH TIMES* (giving the vibe that I might be lying just to get a chance to meet him), then avoids eye contact by squinting into a nearby palm tree.

I'm careful about what I ask and how I ask it, wary of his well-known temper, and hip to an edge of deadpan scorn that

creeps in when I push a subject. What do I really want to ask him? Well, how did it feel to have a hired thug in a greasy, red polyester jacket stop you at the Cannes doorway of your own screening of *The Last Movie* this morning, demanding "Your pass, pleeez?"

What's it like to see yourself in that 1970 film young, gaunt, with an almost angelic grace? Compare that glorious Technicolor cowboy image with the drained, decaying, grey-skinned self you have now (Why do you get to look ravaged and not make the cover of *Hollywood Babylon III*?) How can I relate your condescension to your sympathetic depiction of an explosive para-punk teenage girl as a heroic tomboy in the raw and uneven *Out of the Blue* (1980)?

And where do you get off asking me if I know who Jean-Luc Godard is, quoting from an academic's lofty comparison of your work to his? Is the assumption of ignorance generational (this man's old enough to be my father), a reflection on the manities of film critics, or something else? Do all you sexy '60s boys really dislike women or what?

But what I really want to know is this: how do women viewers relate to the Hopper school of sensitive-eccentric-with-a-dose-of macho male mythmaking? What is it that attracts women to the nervous

wanderlust of *Easy Rider* (which first brought a winning Hopper to Cannes in 1969); what impels fascination, even identification, with Hopper the actor?

Hopper works within a tight boys'-club network of directors and actors, a lineage which originated with '50s auteur Nicholas Ray (who directed Hopper's acting debut in *Rebel Without a Cause*). The club includes Europeans like Wim Wenders and moguls like Coppola, and latches onto specifically errant and eccentric male talents along the way—the cult of the mute, the disenfranchised, the misunderstood. The door to this clubhouse has a "No Girls Allowed" sign tacked on it. But still we peek in, desire admission, relate to the film-art romanticization of the failure. And not because we think we can save these jaded souls, or want to. The geography of the fringe is familiar terrain; the suppressed anger at dislocation seeking to bust out.

All the roles are textbook cases of male existential malaise and madness. Performances such as the dazed and confused Ripley in Wim Wenders' *The American Friend*, the doper journalist lunatic in Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now*, the Oedipal drunk to James Dean simululators, Matt Dillon and Mickey Rourke, in Coppola's *Rumble Fish*.

/ continued on next page

The original Hopper-Fonda-Nicholson triumvirate will be reunited in the sequel to *Easy Rider*, with shooting scheduled to begin this winter.

I want to tell Hopper I love *The Last Movie*, because I truly do. But I don't want to flatter the gargantuan ego that can rant a biographical rave for twenty breathless minutes in his downbeat, laconic style, the "facts" confirming greatness. Or worse yet, seem eager. So, like in those Leshe Fay ads, I "act patient." All the while I'm thinking, "*The Last Movie* is genius, *that's* the hard part."

Shot just after *Easy Rider* on location in Peru, with Hopper as director and lead, *The Last Movie* is a vintage hippie swan song loaded with audacious experimentalism.

Or, as Hopper would say: "I used film as film, like Abstract Expressionism, so I put in stuff like 'scene missing,' used different shooting styles, and would show the clapboard and all." Hopper plays a rangy actor named Kansas who hangs around a Peruvian village with his native girlfriend after the Hollywood spaghetti Western he's starring in wraps.

The "Western" is "directed" by cerebral pulp master Samuel Fuller, who's also a quotable presence in *The American Friend*, just one example of how very influential *The Last Movie* was on the work of Wim Wenders and probably numerous other European directors.

The narrative convolutes wildly as the hero, Kansas, and his cohort, Neville (Don Gordon, also Hopper's sidekick in *Out of the Blue*), hold rambling discourses on hunting for gold, and mix it up with a bitchy, repressed bourgeois housewife and her entrepreneurial husband Kansas' Indian woman

friend starts to lust for maternal things and gets slapped around by Hopper for it.

"Were you criticizing or what?"

"I'm coming at it the same way I come on with the other," he hedges. "Uh, I'm showing it the way I saw it. As mistreatment."

The Last Movie climaxes with trippy, hand-held camera footage of a bloodied Hopper intercut with bizarre short shots, including one of a lactating breast (suck on that, Freudian viewers).

This jagged opus takes on the movie industry's short-sightedness, film-within-a-film challenges to the actual, American cultural imperialism and the consequences of what Hopper dubs "naive stupidity." It's a very '60s movie, you're right. It was a certain moment of film making and, like there was never a film before it made like it, there was nothing made like it afterwards either."

Despite his domineering pride, I'm sympathetic to Hopper's defensive riff, considering what happened to his masterwork. Universal yanked it from distribution after a few short runs and chopped it up for TV, despite the fact the *The Last Movie* won the prestigious Golden Lion Award at the 1971 Venice Film Festival.

"They thought it was political," he complains. "It scared them, they weren't sure it wasn't, they wanted Kansas to get killed, they didn't understand the politics. They thought business was bad enough as it was, they didn't need to have it made fun of; they also thought I might be giving away some se-

crets they didn't think audiences should know about how movies are made. And they said, 'We don't say it isn't art, but we figure the only good artist is a dead artist,' and I said, 'Hey man, you're talkin' to a paranoid, lemme go.' And they said, 'We will let you go.' And that was that."

So the only way for the mass public to experience *The Last Movie* was through its considerable media hype. *Life*, *Esquire*, *Rolling Stone* and the *New York Times* all sent reporters down to the Andes to clue in middle America to the subcultural event of the season—on the set, though hardly visible in the movie: Peter Fonda, Michelle Phillips, Toni Basil, Dean Stockwell, Sylvia Miles and Kris Kristofferson (singing "Me & Bobby McGee" on a hillside rock while Hopper rides lyric horseback).

Unlimited cheap drugs and orgasmic nights that shocked the locals made it quite some party. The mayhem found its way onto the finished product in a scene that really got to me—a hallucinogen-soaked go go bash that Hopper's Kansas walks out of, befuddled and weeping. Why the tears? It must have been as clear then as it is now. *The Last Movie* cannily captures the end of an era, a sentiment not so subtly hinted at in its title. It is a consummate expression of what Hopper calls "a certain moment." It should be seen.

There's so much to say about *The Last Movie*. I want to talk politics and Peruvian culture with Hopper, but Lilian's snapped off her film, the next

interviewer is tapping a restless foot, and Hopper's still fixated on the waving palm, orchestrating the dialogue to fit his pre-rehearsed mental press release. "Make sure to say I only want to make linear movies now. *The Last Movie* is not a linear movie."

Yes, and a dog is not a cat. Okay, next lesson, sir. Hopper's so busy singing his classic "they done me wrong" song, he can't hear me asking, genuinely curious, how he got along with the Peruvians, why he waited fifteen years to defossilize *The Last Movie*, what prompted his unique editing style (he cut every frame of his three films, *Easy Rider*, *The Last Movie* and *Out of the Blue*).

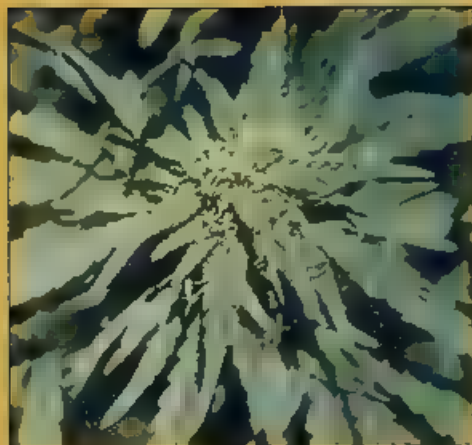
I realize it's the key moment to launch into my own Top Ten standard. Oh Dennis Hopper, oh wizened sage, what're you doing next, what magnificence's to spring forth from the years spent learning, loving, losing? It's as predictable as the slow dance number that winds down a high school dance. And so facile, so easy to respond to.

There's the direction of the second video from Bob Dylan's "Empire Burlesque" LP (another man aging with impunity). Doubleday's put up big bucks—a sweet six-figure advance—for him to write his life story. But the big thing, the shocker, is the sequel to *Easy Rider*—known alternately as *Easy Rider II*, *Biker Heaven* and (my personal favorite) *Don't Dread on Me*.

"Are you kidding?" I ask, incredulous, scanning the Hopper visage for signs of pull-your-leg gaming. No, it's true. The original Hopper-Fonda-Nicholson triumvirate will be reunited in a script by former "Saturday Night Live" pundits Michael O'Donoghue and Nelson Lyon, as well as original *Rider* screenwriter and Beat wit Terry Southern. Shooting starts this winter, at least according to this man.

Can we picture these middle-aged men boogeying their more portly and less agile selves on Harleys? Will they take shape-up tips from Jane Fonda? Can they get away with it? Dennis Hopper lights another cigarette for me as we're about to get up and leave and suddenly turns polite, even courtly.

"What're your names again? Katherine? Lilian? It's been a pleasure." Yeah, right. ●



Harvest Hints

IT'S A SPECIAL TIME OF YEAR—HARVEST TIME! BY NOW, MOST OF THIS YEAR'S CROP WILL HAVE BEEN HARVESTED, and domestic herb will be finding its way into papers and pipes all over America. Of course, the government has made its usual efforts to stamp out the "killer weed," with a much-ballyhooed countrywide campaign back in August led by Ronzo's pal Ed Meese. But the fact is that more herb was grown this year than ever before, and with a worsening situation afflicting our nation's farmers, pot-planting will only continue to increase.

In celebration of this special season, we've prepared a potpourri of harvest mini-features, including harvest hints from authoritative books on cannabis cultivation, a report on "harvest parties" (growers gathering to celebrate this year's crop) and a look at the bittersweet side of the harvest, written by our resident expert, Ed Rosenthal.

So kick back, fire up some fresh smoke, and join us in celebrating the harvest season.

IN EVERY CULTURE, THE HARVEST season is a time for rejoicing. A successful harvest means that people will have enough food, fiber and herbs to succor them through the winter and the spring. It usually also means prosperity for the farmers. How ironic that we have such a bittersweet harvest in America, which is blessed with so much arable land and such bountiful crops.

Virtually every segment of the farming industry is hurting. It began in the early '70s with the dairy farmers whose production continued to increase in a declining market. Next the grain farmers—corn, wheat, and beans—began to hurt as the international markets where they dumped surplus-

es dried up. (The Third World countries were beginning to feed themselves.) How could they not be hurting? An acre of corn might produce a hundred bushels. At \$3.50 a bushel, a farmer is grossing less on an acre than if he grew one four-ounce marijuana plant. And growing an acre of corn is a lot more bother than growing a quarter-pound pot plant.

Until a year or two ago, the fruit and vegetable farmers in the southern and western states, who provide most of the country with fresh fruits, produce and specialty items, were doing pretty well. Now growers are competing with orange juice from Brazil, grapes from Chile, tomatoes from Mexico—the list stretches on.

Some farmers tried get-rich-quick schemes, so there is a glut of kiwis in California and periodic overproduction of varietal grapes.

Even with parity, price supports, and licensing (you cannot grow tobacco or peanuts for sale in the U.S. without a license), the farmers are going belly-up. Estimates of losses range between 15 and 40 billion dollars. Meanwhile, the U.S. is losing both its farmland and topsoil at an alarming rate. Wherever I have travelled in the States I have seen the land ravaged by logging companies using unsound tree-farming practices, farmers who use the land inappropriately, and greedy developers. How telling that a farmer growing a

perennial planting of mixed high-nitrogen hay earns more than a farmer out planting his corn and washing away his soil.

Marijuana is a relatively unregulated industry except for police raids, which function as price supports. This increases the scarcity of the product so that the reward for bringing in a large crop can be substantial. Marijuana farmers are estimated to have earned somewhere between 20 and 50 billion dollars this year. Total farm income is probably in the black when the figures for marijuana are included.

Domestic marijuana farmers do enjoy protectionist policies which keep prices up. The government has gone to extreme efforts to restrict the



flow of Colombian, Mexican, Jamaican and Thai product into the U.S. Cotton and clothing manufacturers must envy the diligence which the government uses to enforce the laws. Why, they've even brought out the Army and Navy!

The economic facts of life have not been lost on a growing number of farmers. "Let's see," one can almost hear a farmer say, "I get 120 bushels of corn per acre on my hundred acre spread. At \$3.50 a bushel, that comes to a total gross of \$42,000. That's not bad. After mortgage, equipment, fertilizer and fuel, I made almost \$3,000. And the clones I planted at the rate of one per acre, planted in June so they only reached six feet and produced a half-pound, each came to a total of \$80,000 at \$1,600 a pound. Not bad either. After the \$500 expense of setting up the grow-room, my profit was \$79,500."

Of course, the absurd U.S. agricultural policies have an impact on HIGH TIMES readers as a group in a way that most Americans are just beginning to understand. Intrusions on the privacy of rural lands, attempts at using toxic herbicides to eradicate marijuana, the jailing of farmers for growing a benign herb, entrapment of innocents, and the general abridgement of the Bill of Rights by the Government are a few eye-openers.

When the Spanish first encountered the Aztecs in Mexico, the Indians' staple starch was amaranth, a drought-resistant, prolific grain. The plant was so entwined with Aztec culture that it was used in the religious ceremonies including mass sacrifices, which were a crude form of birth control practiced on the Aztec empire's subjects. With relatively little effort the Spanish banned the plant, and amaranth was lost as a commercial plant from the 16th century until the 1970s, when Rodale Press (*Organic Gardening Magazine*) rediscovered it, and started to popularize it.

The U.S. government will not have such an easy time eliminating marijuana as a commercially viable plant. In spite of the government's increased eradication efforts, more marijuana was grown outdoors this year than ever before. Farm-

ers are getting more sophisticated and bringing in heavier yields on smaller plots. As the police are going after outdoor plots, indoor farmers have learned how to convert a hundred-square-foot space into a farm grossing \$30,000 a year.

The government has lost its war against marijuana. In 1937, when the laws were enacted, there were an estimated 50,000 marijuana users. Today, 75 million Americans take a toke at least occasionally. When will the politicians look around, see the light and stop harassing its citizens who are just using one of the rights mentioned in the Declaration of Independence—the "pursuit of happiness"?

So this is a bittersweet harvest. There are beautiful stocks of marijuana, and the marijuana farmers who harvested a crop are doing well. But the harassment and threats take the warmth out of a joyous time. As we fill our turkeys with marijuana stuffing, maybe we will meditate about a time in the future when we will be able to plant a few seeds in the garden and not have to worry about the thought police coming after us. Yes, this is a bittersweet harvest, but it tastes a little fruity too, almost like grape. ●

— Ed Rosenthal

The Big Payoff

OVER MOST OF NORTH AMERICA the time of harvest is usually between the equinox, September 21, and October 10. Some plants mature two to three weeks earlier or later.

When you think you have waited long enough, go out with the scissors and snip off a few buds. Dry them quickly and roll. The little flowers should stick to your fingers, smell wonderful, and smoke very poorly (you will have to relight for every toke). The white feathery pistils should be turning brown or gold. Close examination of the flower tops should show sparkling droplets of resin all over the flowers and small leaves.

When the flowers are ready to pick, half of the little feathers should have turned gold. The big leaves have started to hang down and turn yellow.

The leaves on the tops bend back, tips pointing down. The plant is preparing to die and looks like it. Check for seeds: If the plants have lots of seeds, harvest before most of the seeds turn dark. If they have only a few seeds, wait until some, at least, are mature and black enough to plant next year.

If you allow severe paranoia to control harvest, you lose. It is very hard to go on waiting a few more days, but that's what you must do. Grit your teeth and sleep out there with the

flashlight, borrow a barking dog, rig up some bells on invisible fishline, anything. Those last warm days of sunshine, the famous "Indian summer," put a final spurt of energy into the flowers that's worth waiting for.

However, if rain is pouring down, fear not. Perfectly fine marijuana has been harvested from saturated fields. The rain does not injure the resin on the flowers nor does it ruin the flavor of the grass.

Watering should have been



Potbeds of Activity

● These are NORML's estimates of the states harvesting the highest amounts of pot this year, with the size of the crops computed according to their potential dollar value.

CALIFORNIA \$2 billion

HAWAII \$1.2 billion

OREGON \$600 million

KENTUCKY \$600 million

NORTH CAROLINA \$550 million



stopped a couple of weeks before the harvest since upward growth stops when the plant matures. A few plants may not be ready when the main crop is, so leave them in if possible. Remember, late bloomers should not be used for seed. Pick your best, earliest-blooming female to use for next year.

Pick a warm sunny day if you can. Watch the weather report closely and cut before it rains.

There are several ways to harvest:

Immediately take the plants out of the sun. Drying in the sun destroys the fine green color and sweet taste. Dry it slowly in a dark place at a cool room temperature with good air circulation. If you have a tall drying place, hang the whole plant upside down from a nail; or cut the plant into sections, removing the main stalk, and hang the pieces. Hanging upside down makes a classy, neat finish to the dry tips, with all the leaves in order, nothing squished or bent. For more rapid drying, trim off all the tops and discard the big leaves and stems which contain a lot of water. Lay the tops on screens or hook them over strings strung across the room. The fresh, wet stuff must be kept up in the air and well separated, or it could get moldy.

A closet with the door slightly open or a basement is ideal. Put in an electric fan if it's humid or raining hard. Catalytic heaters work in areas without electricity.

Drying should take a week to ten days, leaving the plants dry but still a little springy. Don't let them get crumbly dry, or they will be impossible to handle. They will shrink a lot, even the monster tops. The results from slow drying are far superior to fast drying with heat. The slower it dries, the more flavor and aroma the plant retains. ●

—From *The Primo Plant* by Mountain Girl, *Leaves of Grass/Wingbow Press, Berkeley, Calif.*

Sinse Secrets

SINSEMILLA CULTIVATORS employ one of two techniques in harvesting their plants. The selection of technique is determined by—among other

things—the cultivators' emotional state, security status of the garden and weather.

Selective Harvest: When environmental conditions are favorable and everything else well controlled, cultivators selectively harvest individual flower clusters as they ripen and mature. The rate at which flowers reach their peak of growth is determined by their position on the plant. Flowers on the top branch ends mature first. By harvesting these mature clusters, cultivators enable the less mature interior flowers to develop body and character.

Harvest and Run: When conditions get out-of-control, or adverse weather is imminent, cultivators find themselves in the position of having to harvest and run. Under these circumstances, the prime consideration is expediency—whatever works in the least amount of time is best. Cultivators might cut the plant at the base of the stem or just pull the plant up by the roots, then run.

Once harvested, certain forces which act upon flowers are degenerative in nature. Light, heat, oxygen and mishandling diminish THC content and reduce the qualities of taste, bouquet and appearance. To compensate for these degenerative forces, cultivators usually label the top clusters "NFS" (Not For Sale). In addition, cultivators use this separation process to search for seeds hidden within the dense flower clusters.

Cleaning and manicuring are labor-intensive endeavors taking many hours of time. Cultivators often hire friends to help; consequently, the process resembles an old-fashioned corn-husking as they all sit and "snip until they flip."

Drying: To prepare the flowers for consumption, excess water must be evaporated. The method used for evaporating water is the same as that used for drying other herbs and spices. The flowers are hung upside down in a dark, dry and well-ventilated space. Cultivators assert that the slower evaporation processes result in sweeter-tasting products. As the water evaporates, the thick coating of resin becomes even thicker and forms a natural sealant. When about 90 per-

cent of the water is evaporated, the flowers are removed from the drying room.

Packaging: To protect the dried flowers for extended periods of time, cultivators package them in airtight containers. The best containers for packaging are glass jars, but plastic containers, stoneware and vacuum-sealed "boilable" plastic pouches provide reasonable alternatives. Sold one cultivator about his packaging practices, "I get \$3,000 a pound for my homegrown. The reason I get this much is because my product is the best. I use only organic soil nutrients for the plants and slow-dry the flowers for two to three weeks. I spend months growing these plants, so when they are ready for packaging, I put them in glass jars. My people expect the best."

Storing: A stash of beautifully dried and manicured flowers lying around the house provides the ultimate temptation to thieves. It is one commodity that has no serial number, nor is the potential victim likely to call the police for help. To avoid problems of this sort, cultivators must find suitable storage locations elsewhere. One ingenious individual resolved this dilemma by hiring a meat locker at a local packing plant. This cold storage provided suitable security and preserved the character and potency of his harvested flowers. ●

—from *The Sinsemilla Technique* by Koyo, *Last Gasp Publications* San Francisco, California

Ed. Note: Books excerpted in this section are available from the HIGH TIMES Bookstore (see page 74).

Harvest Parties

● 'TIS THE SEASON FOR CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING, and in the spirit of this joyous season, growers gather at harvest parties to share their wares, give thanks for a bountiful crop, and use their herb as Jah Intended—to get high and have fun! Harvest parties originated during the halcyon days of pot farming in Northern California, when thousands of growers and their friends and families assembled at a park campground in Santa Cruz or on private farms and ranches in Humboldt County. Highlights of these harvest bashes included contests for Best Tasting, Biggest Buds, Most Potent and any other category the growers' well-staked imaginations could conjure. Smoke-Outs were held to test the mettle of hardcore tokers—last one still smokin' would be rewarded with a choice selection of primo buds. Much good cheer was generated thanks was given for the current crop and hope held out for the future, and high times were had by all.

Alas, the ugliness of CAMP and the continuing antipot crusade by crazed Cal. cops has led Northern California growers to tone down the scale of their harvest parties; this year's bashes were more private affairs with fewer people in attendance. "There are more harvest parties in California this year than ever before," reports our correspondent on the Coast. "But they were smaller and more private, although no less festive. The growers just felt that this year it was wise not to flaunt their activities."

But while the harvest parties in California are being scaled down, growers in other areas of the country are picking up the slack. This year's parties in the Midwest and along the eastern seaboard are bigger blowouts than ever, owing to increased production in those areas. Hearty partying is the order of the day in states such as Georgia, Kentucky, Virginia, Michigan and Arkansas, as growers celebrate record crops.

While the government does its damndest to depict growers as desperate criminals, the fact is that the vast majority of pot farmers are righteous folks making a living in one of the highest possible ways. And when it comes time to celebrate a job well done, these growers prove that they are world-class party people.

Happy harvest! ●



CHOP THAT CROPI

● The plants are high and ready for pickin' (left). The harvest begins with cuttin' and balin' (right).

Photos ● Ed Rosenthal



ASK ED



● PLANT OF THE MONTH

An indica-sativa mix. Yielded three lbs. of great bud.

—Ed
Eugene, Oreg.

Dear Ed,

I have a garden with 10 plants in my backyard. I transplanted them when they were two months old, in May. It's late September and my plants aren't flowering at all. What's wrong?

—R. of R
St. Petersburg, Fla.

● Marijuana flowers as it senses the advent of autumn. It does this by chemically measuring the number of hours of uninterrupted darkness during each 24-hour cycle. When enough hours of darkness accumulate each day, the plant produces hormones that change its growth cycle from vegetative to reproductive. The number of hours of uninterrupted darkness required to induce flowering ranges from eight to 10 hours for many indicas and other high-latitude plants and 12 to 14 hours for equatorial varieties.

Marijuana is very sensitive to interruption of the dark period. Even a short blast of light can upset a plant's flowering cycle. You have probably been turning the lights on in your garden fairly regularly, and the plants have responded to the interruption of the dark period by continuing vegetative growth.

Even if the plants are flowering, an interruption of the dark cycle can cause smaller, looser buds, and delay maturation. If the light interruptions continue regularly, the plant reverts to vegetative growth.

FIGHTING THOSE FUNKY FUNGI

● Knock out these
plant killers using
methods from baking
soda to vacuum
cleaners!

Dear Ed,

My plants were growing great guns until the rains came and water got in the buds. A powdery mold destroyed about a third of them overnight. How can I save the rest?

—Soaked
Cleveland, Ohio

● Plant fungi and molds need several conditions to grow well. They include a moist or wet space, temperatures in the 50-to-70-degree range and a slightly acidic environment. Buds are an ideal environment for fungi because water gets trapped inside the tightly-packed vegetation especially at night or on over-

cast days when temperatures drop into the 60s. Elimination of any of these conditions—moisture, 50-to-70 degree temperatures or acidic conditions—stops fungal growth. Damage will be limited to infected areas, but no new infections will occur.

In a garden with only a few plants, a hair dryer, on low speed and temperature, can be used to dry out any moist vegetation. I have also seen farmers use vacuum cleaners with the hose inserted in the exhaust end. The hot-air temperatures and strong winds damage the vegetation if the nozzle is placed too close to the plants. The buds dry naturally on a warm, breezy day, or more slowly on a cool, breezy day.

The pH of the vegetation's surface area can be raised to an alkaline level. A number of substances can probably be used. The August 1985 issue of *Organic Gardening* reported that Japanese researchers used baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) mixed in water at the rate of a quarter-ounce per gallon sprayed on the plants weekly, as both a preventive and a cure against powdery mildew. Presumably it would be effective against other fungi and molds since it is alkaline, and leaves a water-washable residue on the vegetation. The scientists

continued on page 76

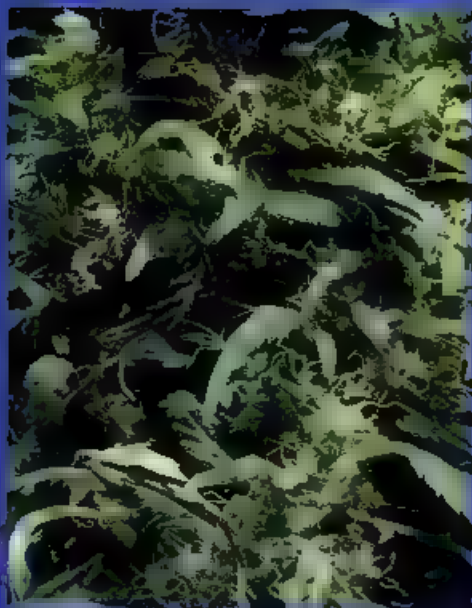
BY ED ROSENTHAL

● PLANT OF THE MONTH

A warm Wisconsin summer produced this crop which yielded over 10 lbs. of quality smoke and plenty of brownie mix.

—S
Madison, Wis.





● BUD OF THE MONTH

The bud pictured here is the result of cross-country cooperation. For years, I read about this mythical Southern African-Durban Poison which was supposed to be an excellent plant to cross with indicas. Well, a friend of mine up in northern California located a farmer who said he had the original strain.

The farmer said that the guy who imported the original seeds gave his friend some from the first generation grown in the U.S. Each strain was kept pure. His friend crossed the plants and put all the seedlings in the ground where they were growing fine until the garden was raided by the law. Luckily, the farmer had taken cuttings from the plants early in the season to sex the plants.

Only three cuttings rooted, but they were all females. Since that time the farmer has kept the strain alive only through cuttings. He gave my friend some. My friend sent me two by express package in January. I rooted the cuttings and grew the two plants for about six weeks. Then I cut the plants up and got 20 cuttings out of each one. Fifteen survived rooting strains and all of them are super-vigorous. I put them out in late May. They reached eight feet in late July as they began to flower. The very last buds were plucked September 30, and they are over-ripe. Since the plants were so good, I pulled them out of the ground, and am now trying to "overwinter" them in my basement under some fluorescent, which is how my friend is growing them.

Whoever brought in Durban 34.3 and Afghan 17, if you are reading this I want to thank you for your service to America.

—Buddy
Burlington, Vt



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A green tide is rising across North America; a new kind of politics is emerging, "neither left nor right, but green."



● The Garden of Eden (two views). The Greens have planted their ecological flag on this endangered community project in New York City. Photographs by Carl Hultberg.

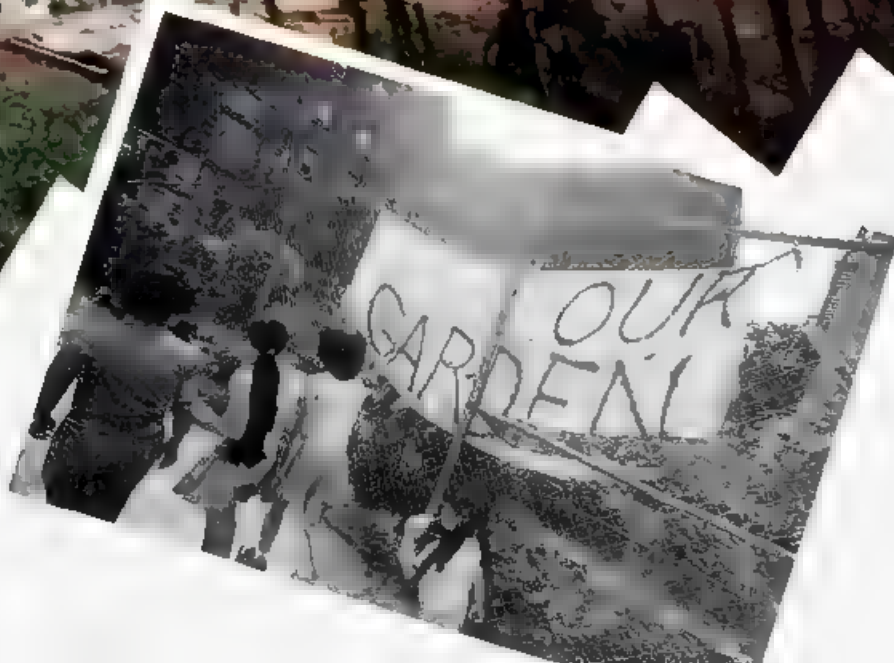
GREEN

BY NESTOR MAHKNO

● Inspired in part by the Green Parties of Western Europe and growing out of the experience of the 60s and 70s antinuclear ecology, feminist and peace movements a variety of "Green"-oriented groups have begun organizing across the United States

"Green politics," as it has been defined in West Germany, is based on four principal pillars: ecology, social responsibility, peace, and non-violence, and base democracy. The West German Green Party carried 12 percent of the vote in elections for the European Parliament and their long-haired, bearded and casually-dressed delegates hold 28 seats in the Bundestag (the National Parliament, equivalent to our Congress).

But the Greens are not a bunch of plant-a-tree freaks. They make a distinction between ecology and environmentalism. Taking their inspiration from ecology, the Greens are holistic, emphasizing the relationship between the domination and exploitation of nature and the domination and exploitation of people. Everywhere they find themselves allied against both the conservative and liberal majorities, they seek fundamental alternatives to both consumerist capitalism and technocratic socialism.



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Peace is one of the Green pillars, and, for most Greens, this means moving beyond the freeze and an anti-interventionist stance to question our basic concepts of deterrence and defense. The New England Greens, for example, call for a "a non-nuclear, no surrender" position based on "unilateral disarmament—a 100-percent elimination of biochemical weapons and a 99-percent reduction of nuclear weapons to the 300 to 400 sufficient for a policy of deterrence." They also propose a "decentralized territorial armed defense...in place of the standing professional army."

Social responsibility is the Green term for the principles of civil rights and an equitable economic system which would redistribute wealth worldwide, and conserve and extend human rights and freedom. The Green-oriented Committees of Correspondence ask, "How can we help other countries make the transition to self-sufficiency in food and other basic necessities?" Drawing on an ecological model, the Greens look for a reorganization of the economy based on the ideals of local self-reliance and long-term ecological sustainability, rather than the traditional leftist alternative of a centralized state-controlled economic system. Greens want to encourage individual enterprise and curb the powers of the large corporations.

The Greens seek to create forums for direct participation by the base: an active citizenry making decisions about the vital issues facing society. They call for decentralizing political power. The Greens counterpose this direct democracy to the representative democracy that now exists.

Within these broad principles the Greens are seeking to define themselves in relation to local conditions; programs, issues and policies are emerging from the specific concerns of Greens in their own communities and regions. Green politics are not monolithic, and no "Central Committee" dictates a party line; the form that Green politics takes varies from place to place.

THE GREEN CONSTITUENCY

ONE STRIKING ASPECT OF THIS EMERGING social movement is the make-up of its participants. While young people and students are taking an active role, a good portion of Green activists are people in their 30s and 40s—people who came of age in the '60s and '70s and are now looking for a political movement that will allow them to actualize the ideals of their youth. There is a utopian thrust to the Greens. They are not afraid to give power to their dreams, but their impulses are tempered by a reality principle that, for many, grows out of twenty years of involvement in alternative movements.

In New England the Greens have drawn their members from people who have been active in the feminist movement; the struggle against the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant; the "New Age" community, and the food coop movement.

It's telling that Paul McIsaac, one of New York's foremost Greens, sees one of the strengths of the German Greens as their re-



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fusal to accept a split into New Left and countercultural wings, a split which, until now, has plagued U.S. alternative movements since Vietnam.

Unlike the German Greens, the U.S. movement seems for the moment to be drawn from a relatively narrow political spectrum. Conservatives have largely ignored the emerging American Green movement, with the exception of a few friendly Libertarians and the over-reactive TV denunciations ("green pawns of Walter Mondale, Soviet Agent of Influence") of the arch-neo-conservative, Lyndon LaRouche.

The European Green Parties have proven effective critics of the ruling elites, and their electoral success has brought them to the point of holding the balance of power in several regional parliaments. Success has brought problems of the sort faced by any oppositional movement entering into the parliamentary arena. The German Green Party is currently embroiled in a debate between its fundamentalist (Fund) and realist (Realo) wings regarding the risks of forming a coalition with the Social Democrats, the traditional left party of West Germany.

Such problems are rather distant from the reality of the U.S. Greens. Here, at an earlier stage of development there are differences between those who advocate direct action and those who seek electoral involvement. Yet, if the Green movement emerging here develops the inclusivity of the Germans and brings in more elements — if it matures — it promises big changes in the U.S.

According to Lorna Saltzman, a New York-based Green organizer: "Such a Green Party could articulate a truly American philosophy of decentralization, both economic and political, self-rule as envisioned by our forefathers, and the elevation of citizens into an arena not of commercial consumerism but of public life and community responsibility."

"The Green movement in the U.S. is still struggling to define itself, but the basic glimmerings of the Green position on the issues of the day are clear: no nukes; no intervention; clean up the planet; anti-corporation, anti-racism; anti-sexism; pro-base democracy and community self-reliance," according to New York Green David Levine

UNITY THRU DIVERSITY

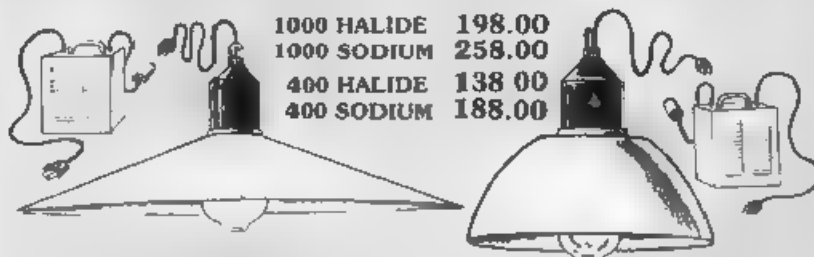
THE FIELD IS CROWDED WITH GROUPS aspiring to the mantle of "Green Leadership" on the national level. There are at least four groups which present themselves as "national" Green organizations, and a multitude of local and regional networks, with more groups going Green all the time.

The most encouraging aspect of the Green development in the U.S. is its diversity. As benefits a movement committed to decentralization and base democracy, the Greens have emphasized local organizing instead of national party-building. (See box).

Greens have been active on many fronts, and have used many tactics to get their message across, including electoral campaigns to civil disobedience. There has been a strong Green involvement in the

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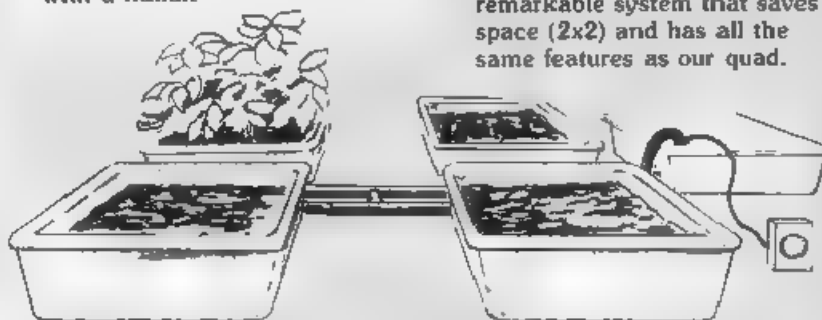
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movement against nuclear power. The Seacoast chapter of the Clamshell Alliance is active with the New England Greens. According to Geoff Yippie, the Abalone Alliance (the grass-roots group that opposed the construction of the Diablo Canyon reactor) is reorganizing in California as a Green network.

The Upper Valley Greens in Vermont and New Hampshire have initiated a campaign for the creation of Public Power Districts. They are organizing for a referendum on the issue, which would encourage the development of decentralized, ecologically-sound energy sources like solar and wind power.

In Ann Arbor, Michigan, a Green group has introduced "Green bicycles," based on the famous white-bicycle plan pioneered by Amsterdam's Provos in the '60s. They gave the public 30 bicycles, all painted green, and left on the streets for anyone to use within the city limits. In Boston, the Greens have been working with the progressive black populist, ex-mayoral candidate Mel King. They are planning an "Urban Farm" for city-owned land.

Many Greens see their primary task as educational. The Central Vermont Greens hold weekly forums on topics ranging from acid rain to Nicaragua to Indian rights. In New York City, the Learning Alliance, a Green-oriented educational project, has of-

fered over 50 workshops, classes and forums on Green issues.

There are also several national Green newsletters. *The Green Letter*, available from P.O. Box 9242, Berkeley, CA 94709, and *Synthesis*, published by the League for Ecological Democracy, P.O. Box 1858, San Pedro, CA 90733.

The local groups have been developing their own particular perspectives on the Green philosophy, and stay in touch with each other through two major national communication networks which have been established in the past year: the Committee of Correspondence and the North American Green Network.

The Interregional Committee of Correspondence was founded in August of '84 at a meeting in Minneapolis which brought together 60 people from across the U.S. Inspired by the publication of *Green Politics* (Capra and Spretnick) and by the North American Bio-Regional Congress, held in the Ozarks the previous June, the weekend meeting in Minneapolis, although criticized by some as an elitist gathering, nonetheless served to spark local organizing activity nationwide. The Committee is still struggling to define its purpose and structure, but it has played an important role in the creation of a potentially effective network of Green groups.

The North American Green Network.

founded by the Yippies, Rock Against Racism and others who worked on protests at the Democratic and Republican conventions, is trying to establish direct communication between Greens through a computer-based electronic communication network which allows the "base to talk to the base."

According to organizer Dana Beal they have "about thirty terminals in the network, including the L.A. Greens, San Francisco, Portland Oregon, Seattle, the Rainbow Guide in Boise, New Mexico Greens, Texas Political Prisoners Front, Iowa Greens, Minneapolis Rockwell Project, Chicago Public Eye, Madison Greens, Columbus and Cleveland Greens, Atlanta, Gainesville, D.C., Philly, New York and New England."

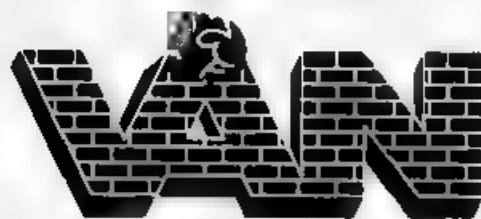
They hold monthly computer conferences which also involve link-ups with representatives of the German Greens, other European activists and the Japanese peace movement. The Network was active in recent anti-apartheid demonstrations.

Those interested in more information about these national efforts can contact the Committee of Correspondence at P.O. Box 40040, St. Paul, MN 55104. The North American Green Network is managed by Russell Braen, (202) 265-0680.

The national Green scene involves other groups as well. The U.S. Green Party, an early and not very credible organizational effort based in California, has not been heard from of late, despite claims last year



"Hey! I busted you first!"



VIGILANTES AGAINST NARCOTICS

THE VAN OATH

WHEREAS LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO STEM THE FLOW OF MARIJUANA, AND OTHER ILLEGAL DRUGS INTO THIS COUNTRY AND WHEREAS LEGAL LOOPHOLES AND SO CALLED CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS HAVE FURTHER HINDERED LAW ENFORCEMENT I (VAN Member) DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR AS A REGISTERED LIFE LONG MEMBER OF VAN (VIGILANTES AGAINST NARCOTICS) TO DO ALL IN MY POWER TO ELIMINATE NARCOTICS AND NARCOTIC TRAFFICKERS NO MATTER WHAT THE RISK I SHALL ATTEMPT TO INFILTRATE NARCOTICS ORGANIZATIONS AND IF NECESSARY EVEN SIMULATE THE USE AND DISTRIBUTION OF ILLEGAL DRUGS UNTIL THE LAST NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER IS BROUGHT TO JUSTICE SO HELP ME GOD

X

Signature _____

Concerned about drug abuse and illegal drugs such as marijuana and cocaine? Then there is a way you can help. Join VAN (Vigilantes Against Narcotics). It could be the difference between your freedom and your life.

Send check or money order for \$19.95 payable to VAN ASSOCIATES INC. and receive your Life Time VAN Membership Kit. Your membership entitles you to a VAN Personal I.D. Card, The VAN Oath, plus an authentic VAN Badge with carrying case.

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of "30 000 members and three million supporters." It appears to have lost all three million after an early endorsement of Mondale's primary run and an effort by its opportunistic "chairman" to run for Congress as a Democrat.

The Washington-based Eurolinks group has served as a contact for those interested in the European Green movements, distributing literature and arranging tours for German Greens. They were, briefly, the official U.S. representatives of the German Greens, but their official status was revoked last November at the Green Party Congress in Hamburg. Though many aspire to it, the mantle of "official Green" representation still goes unclaimed.

The fragmented Citizens Party came together briefly last August in Minneapolis (on the same weekend the Committee of Correspondence was meeting across town) to nominate Sonja Johnson for President and to adopt a party platform based on that of the British Ecology (Green) Party. But, after throwing her support to Mondale-Ferraro, Sonja Johnson has not been highly visible, nor has the Citizens Party—although at least one of their locals participates in the computer conference, via Minneapolis.

The Greens have chosen to move slowly, avoiding media-hype and generally eschewing publicity at this formative stage, not wishing to disrupt the organic growth of their organizations. But contacts are increasing daily. Over 4,000 letters have reached the Committee of Correspondence and have been passed on to appropriate regional groups.

QUESTIONS REMAIN

AS THE GREEN ORGANIZING EFFORT gains momentum several major issues are still to be resolved. Will the Greens emerge as a movement or a party? Will their focus be a holistic process of cultural reconstruction, or will they confine themselves to a narrower political agenda? What issues will the Greens make their own? Will a unified national movement coalesce around one the existing national networks or will a new national structure arise?

Given the electoral processes of the U.S. (very different from the system of proportional representation which brought the Greens to power in West Germany), is it possible for the U.S. Greens to gain electoral successes? How will the Greens broaden their constituency to include more culturally diverse groups? Is a majoritarian movement possible, or will they function more effectively as a moral minority—pressuring the mainstream to respond to their initiatives?

The answers to these and other questions remain to be seen, but one fact is clear: the Greens are here, and they represent the coming together of a variety of strains in American oppositional politics, the first truly new political movement of the '80s. Will they realize their potential as a force for social change? That is up to all of us who have a stake in seeing the Green principles become a reality. ●



GREEN IN ACTION

● THE ACTIVIST FACTION OF THE NEW YORK GREENS, THE ISSUES AND Actions Committee, has been working this year in conjunction with other local groups to coordinate a mutual support network between the community gardens, shantytowns, squatters, and ecological earthworks of New York City's Lower East Side. The two most endangered, green open spaces are the Lower East Side's Garden of Eden and The Community Garden at 6th St. & Ave. B, both grass-roots peoples' gardens which are now threatened by the city's plans to build housing directly on their sites. The Garden of Eden has been around for 12 years, and has become an internationally well known landmark. Local government agencies, have made an effort to divide the community forcing residents to choose between supporting the housing or the garden. The proposed Green solutions, both can exist with the proper architectural planning. Without gardens and other green open spaces, housing is only warehousing, claim the Greens. With green spaces, housing and residents can become a community. ● Carl Hultberg

THE GREENING OF AMERICA

● Local Green organizing efforts are underway from coast to coast. These include, but are not limited to, local groups in Vermont, New Hampshire, western Massachusetts, Boston, Connecticut and Maine. Last June all the groups met in Boston under the rubric of the New England Greens. Groups have also been organizing in upstate New York, New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C. Greens are active in Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, and the Ozarks (which include parts of Texas, Missouri and Arkansas), New Mexico and Arizona. The West Coast has active Green groups in San Diego, L.A., the Bay area, Washington state and Oregon.

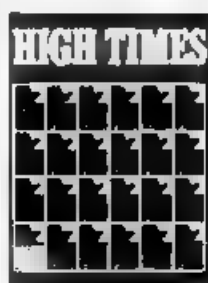
There are two national Green newsletters: The Green Letter, available from P.O. Box 9242, Berkeley, CA 94709, and Synthesis, published by the League for Ecological Democracy, P.O. Box 1858, San Pedro, CA 90733.

Also, two recent books describe the Green phenomenon in America. Green Politics. The Global Promise by Pritof Capra and Charlene Spretnak (Dutton) gives a history of the Green parties in Europe, an assessment of their accomplishments to date, and a "practical" outline of how the European model jibes with U.S. politics. Green Politics both critically evaluates and strongly recommends Green policy; while the authors applaud many Green ideas and values they are "realistically" tough on many Green specifics. Seeing Green. The Politics of Ecology Explained (Basil Blackwell) by Jonathon Porritt overlaps but also complements Green Politics. Part One is an anecdotal/theoretical outline of the writer's own growing awareness of global dangers and tracks the problems back to what he sees as the source: out-of-control technology. Part Two describes what should be done, this writer criticizes American Greens in comparing them to his own Ecology Party, yet he urges many of the same programs as American Greens. Porritt's arguments indicate the diversity of conclusions to be drawn from the Greens' central idea: that long-term global problems are increasingly complex and interrelated, and that Green politics is one of the few ideologies which address them properly—with the added filip of translating Green attitudes into effective political action.—The Editors

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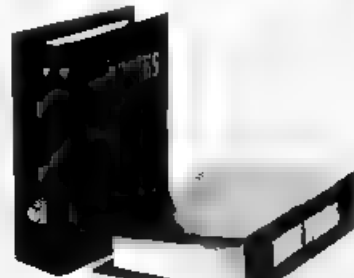
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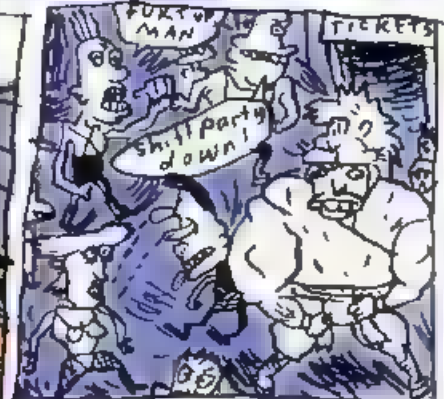
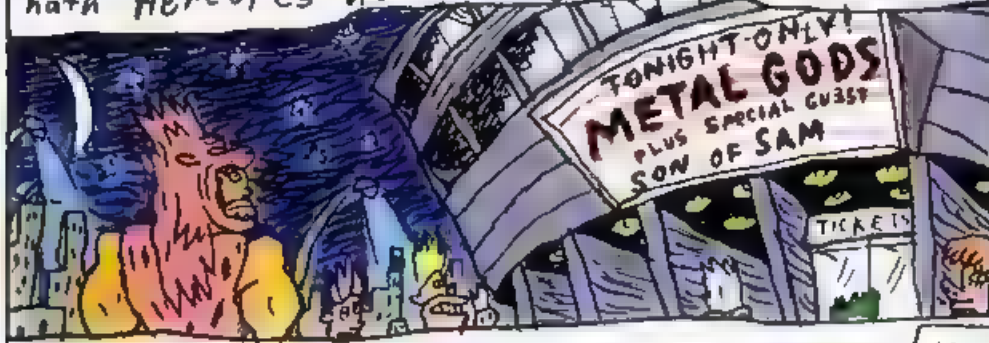
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THE UNDYING DRAMA OF **HERCULES** AMONGST THE NORTH AMERICANS

© Mr. Marek, 29

Tho the Pantheon be of great diversity, never hath Hercules heard of gods such as these



A midst a fierce eruption of fire and smoke the gods appear!!



HE KNOWS NOT what is wrong with kids these days. Why, when he was young a meeting with the gods was an occasion of great reverence



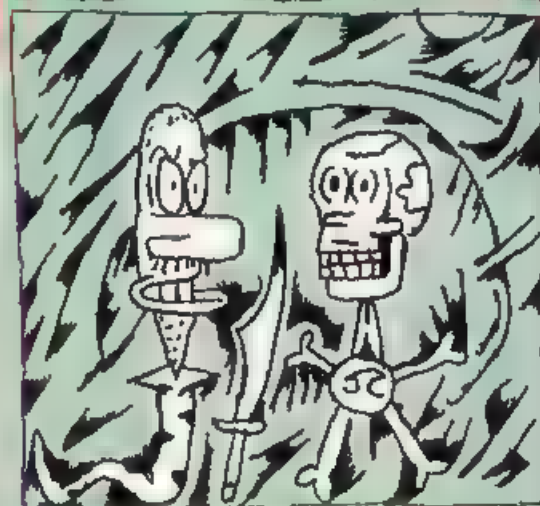
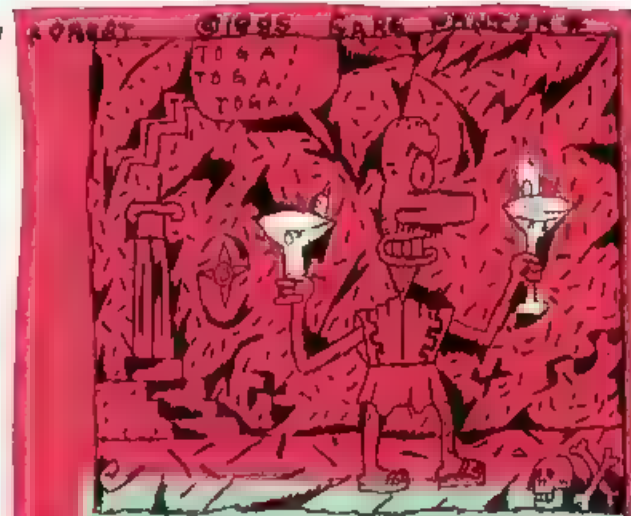
A wretched cacophony assails the sinewy earcanals of the noble Greek... Sounds which could be produced only by those from the nether regions!



One detects no idle muscle on the physique of mighty Hercules as he strains at the massive columns!



ROCK 'N ROLL IS HERE TO STAY BUT THE CURRENT METAL GODS TOUR HAS COME TO AN ALL TOO MORTAL END.



POPULAR PROBLEMS ©1985 RON HAUGE

**FUN
YOU CAN
HAVE**

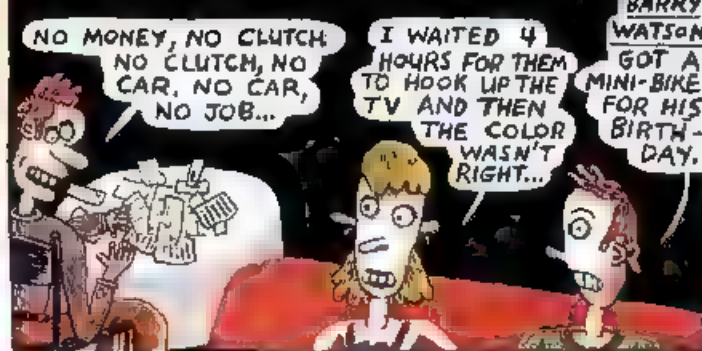
SINGLE OUT A MEMBER OF A KRISHNA BAND
AND TELL HIM YOU'RE A TALENT SCOUT:



RAISE A STINK FOR NO
GOOD REASON:



PLAY THE 'HOME GAME' OF
"QUEEN FOR A DAY":



Mickey Rat



Higher'n
a
kite

Fortune
smiles on
the Rat
as he
cleans the
dumpsters
for any
redeemable
aluminum
cans.

PAYDIRT!... MUST'VE BEEN A HUGE
PARTY HERE LAST NIGHT... LOOKIT' ALL
THESE BOOZE BOTTLES WITH A FEW
SIPS LEFT
IN 'EM.

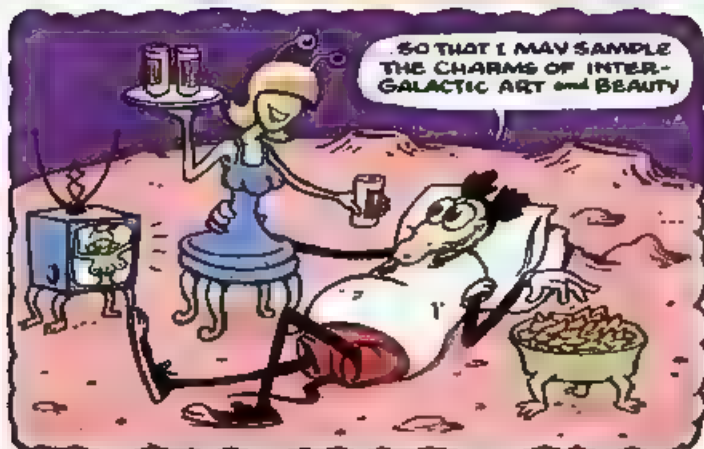
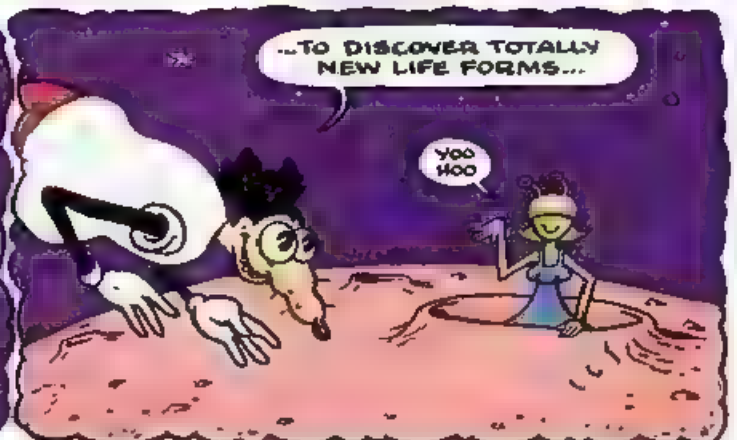
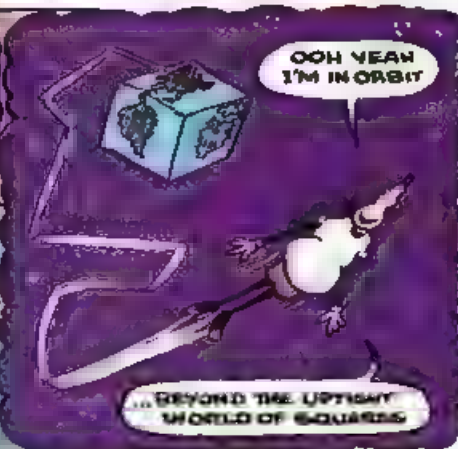
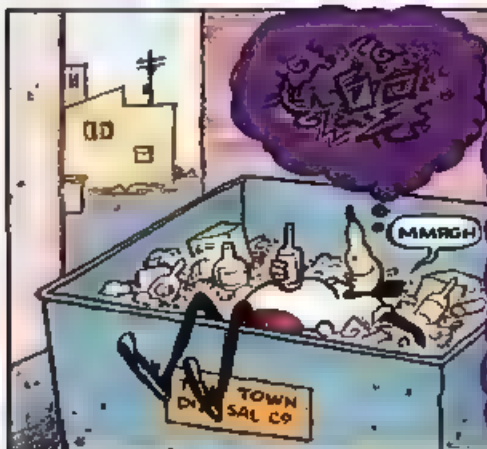


HOW CONVENIENT! I MIGHT
AS WELL FINISH 'EM OFF FOR
MY AFTERNOON BREAK



An hour or two later...

SHURE ARE PLENTY OF THESE
BOTTLES IN HERE. MAN, AM
I EVER FLYIN' HIGH...





20 COOL

EDITED BY DAVID HARRISON

American colleges are getting a bad rap these days, and for the most part it's well-deserved. What were once vital institutions of social concern and political activism have become mere training grounds for would-be yuppies and, in the words of Abbie Hoffman, "hotbeds of rest." But we figured it couldn't be all that bad. Surely, we reasoned, there must be some cool schools—colleges where activism is not a dirty word, where a creative education can still be obtained, and where over-the-edge partying is still more important than cramming for an Economics exam. We checked with our campus sources all over America, and found that, while things are still pretty yupped-out, there is an emerging spirit of social awareness and political activism that harks back to—and in many ways is inspired by—the campus upheavals of the '60s. The pendulum, it seems, is ever-so-slowly swinging back from conservatism to coolness. The following schools offer undeniable evidence that a college campus can still be more than just a diploma mill.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY WAYNE WHITE

COLLEGES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN Madison

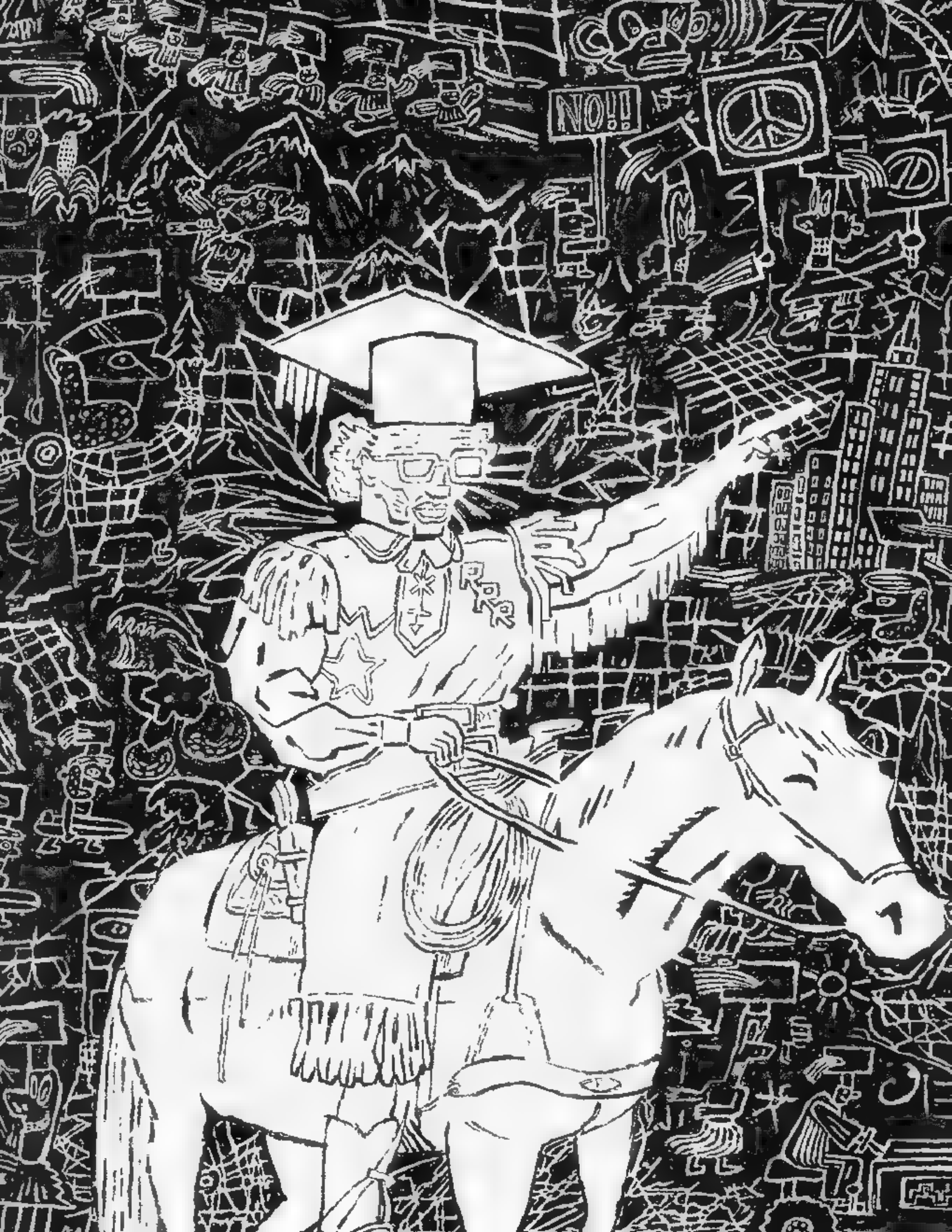
● If for no other reason, UW Madison can lay claim to abiding coolness by virtue of the fact that many former High Times staffers are alumni of this renowned school. But UWM need not rest on its High Times connection. This university was in the vanguard of student protest in the '60s, reaching a peak with the bombing of the local Army Mathematics Center at the height of the Vietnam War in 1970. The city of Madison has been forever altered by that '60s activism—15 blocks from the campus is a neighborhood that is a haven for '60s holdovers—and today the city is governed by left-liberal Democrats, many of them veterans of the activist upheaval. The spirit of student activism is still very much alive here—anti-apartheid protestors recently staged a sit-in that took over the state capital. The campus itself is quite lovely, set in a city that is touched by five beautiful lakes. Add to that the fact that Madison is one of the country's truly great bar towns, with funky joints of every description dotting the urban landscape, and you have a school that is unrivaled for its combination of good times and good works.

COLLEGE OF MARIN Kentfield, Calif.

● "Idyllic" is the only word that does justice to the campus of this junior college located just across the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco, though "laid back" might spring more readily to the lips of those who take a jaundiced view of the California lifestyle. Nestled in the heart of ultra-mellow Marin County, COM offers a wide variety of courses to a charmingly diverse student body. Long-haired nouveau hippies mix with '60s stalwarts and budding yuppies from Marin's affluent bedroom communities, along with a sprinkling of sprightly senior citizens who believe it's never too late to learn. Most of the facilities on campus are state-of-the-art—especially the school's high-tech video studio—owing to the potent tax base of this extremely wealthy county. Forget about the hectic pace and do-or-die competitive atmosphere that plagues most colleges in these hypermaterialistic times. College of Marin's students would just as soon soak up the rays on the school's scenic main lawn as crack the books in the well-stocked library. But a quality education is readily available for those who want one, and many of COM's students go on to the top California state colleges and universities. As for the less gung-ho students, well, Frisbee, anyone?

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN Ann Arbor

● One of the coolest schools of the '60s, U Mich Ann Arbor was the birthplace of the White Panther Party and the scene of some of the decade's most potent protest activity. (It was also the alma mater of *The Big Chill*—dren.) It was here that pa e Panther leader John Sinclair gained national notoriety with a much-publicized pot bust and subsequent draconian sentence that rallied a huge protest backed by the likes of John Lennon, who wrote a song for Sinclair. Today, the campus is crowded with budding yupsters—as are so many of today's colleges—but they must rub shoulders with an ever-increasing number of radical activists, diehard lib-



erals and hardcore punks. Always a great rock 'n' roll school—nearby Detroit is one of America's truly wild rock towns—UMMA boasts one of the country's coolest radio stations, WCBN. There's also a great record store on campus and a thriving rock scene that has given birth to innumerable hard-rock, heavy-metal, punk and art bands. If the Ramones ever graduate from Rock 'n' Roll High School, they will undoubtedly matriculate at UM Ann Arbor.

CAPE COD COMMUNITY COLLEGE West Barnstable, Mass.

● Situated just outside Hyannis (playground of the Kennedys), CCCC is a quintessential resort-area party school. Students can enjoy the scenic splendor of the Cape, revel in some world-class partying, and if they so choose, hit the books to qualify for a big state school. As with any community college, the student body is an eclectic mix of people from all segments of the community, including recent high-school grads as well as long-out-of-school types convinced it's never too late for knowledge—or fun. CCCC students get first dibs on all the best summer jobs on the Cape, one of the primary advantages of attending a resort-area college. One final indication of this school's coolness: Some years ago, a young CCCC student was elected president of his freshman class by a single vote, only to be thrown out of office two weeks later by school administrators for drinking and debauchery. At the end of the school year, his fellow students rewarded the ex prez for his misdeeds with a landslide victory in the election for president of the student government. Now *that's* our kind of school (or more specifically, our Associate Publisher's, since he was the student in question).

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN Providence

● Lots of schools can lay claim to having been cool in the '60s, but here is a school that was cool in the '50s. RISD (nicknamed *Riz-dee*) is the epitome of the hip art

school. Avant-garde artists—and more than a few poseurs—from all over the Northeast flock to this Providence college to hone their artistic skills and soak up the Bohemian atmosphere. RISD rivaled the Boston suburb of Cambridge as the beat capital of New England back in the '50s and early '60s, and the school just kept getting hipper. Among the RISD alumni are the Talking Heads, who first got together when they were art-school chums. Though Providence is a cultural center roughly equal to Cleveland, the Rhode Island School of Design has nonetheless managed to flourish there as an outpost of cool for three decades. *That's* a major achievement in higher—and we do mean *higher*—education.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Berkeley

● One of the original cool schools, UCB is the veritable birthplace of the student protest movement. It was here that then-student Mario Savio started the Free Speech Movement, which really put '60s student activism into high gear. The good news is that, after more than a decade of dormancy, the campus is coming alive again, with students becoming politically aware and active at an encouraging rate. Olympic swimming gold-medalist Mary T. Meagher recently enrolled at UCB and found that most students didn't even recognize her because "they're more interested in politics than sports." Hurrah! And don't forget the school's oh-so-hip location, just across the Bay from San Francisco, in a city that is governed by a black Socialist mayor and the most radical city council in the country. UC Berkeley is back!

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY Hempstead, N.Y.

● How would you like to attend a school that is literally next door to the coliseum where Prince played the only New York dates on his '85 tour? Enjoy sports? Simply stroll over to the school's football field and watch the New York Jets scrimmage, or go to the aforementioned Nassau

Coliseum and cheer for one of the world's greatest hockey teams (the four-time Stanley Cup champion New York Islanders). Like to party? There's an entire *building* devoted solely to fun and games. Such is the situation at Long Island's Hofstra University, a school that offers just about every diversion imaginable to the fun-loving student. New York City, with its hot club scene, high culture and low-down decadence, is a mere 40-minute train ride away from campus. And Hofstra USA, the campus-party center, is the equal of any enclave of pleasure this side of Plato's Retreat. One more thing: The cat-lovers among you will be pleased to know that anyone caught abusing a cat on campus is subject to immediate expulsion, per order of the Hofstra family, who donated the land on which the university is built.



LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY Los Angeles, Calif.

● The very model of a progressive Catholic college, Loyola Marymount is situated on a gorgeous campus in West L.A. A number of LMU students have been involved in radical Catholic missionary work in Central America, and a few work with concerned Catholic priests to find homes for Latin American refugees (especially Salvadorans and Guatemalans) in "underground" safe houses hidden all over Los Angeles. But what *really* makes this a cool school is the campus radio station, KXLU, the hippest station in America, if not the world. L.A.'s legendary college DJ, Stella was instrumental in bringing KXLU to the forefront of the New Rock movement, and a slew of LMU jocks have carried on this fine, funky tradition. Listeners long alienated from L.A. mainstream rock radio are wild about KXLU's adven-

turous format, which mixes the very best rock from the past three decades with the cutting-edge sounds of today. Add to all this a California climate that is just this side of paradise, and you have a school that is undeniably cool.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Austin

● Austin is the San Francisco of the South, an enclave of hipsterism that has been on the cutting edge of cool since the early '60s and shows no signs of losing its well-earned rep. UT Austin is a big school that has more than its share of jocks and red necks (and redneck jocks), but it also has an admirably high per capita head population, plus some of the hippest professors to be found on any American campus. Decadent diversions abound in the city of Austin, including some of America's hottest rock, country and blues nightspots. This was one of the first colleges to get into Ecstasy in a major way—indeed, some UTA students are said to major in MDMA!—and the recent legalization of the "designer drug" has done little to slow down this activity. All in all, UT Austin is a cool school with a turned-on Texas twang and a capacity for fun that is as expansive as the state itself.

SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS New York, N.Y.

● This is currently the New York art school birthplace of the East Village painting scene that is all the rage in Apple art circles. Subway graffiti master Keith Haring—who has since come aboveground to festoon clothing, posters, nightclub walls and Brooke Shields' bod, among other products—is an SVA alumnus. Ditto Kenny Scharf (whose neo-psychedelia was featured in our February issue) and Jean-Michel Basquiat (who posed for the cover of a recent *New York Times Sunday Magazine* sans shoes). Those who would like to pass quickly from struggling young artist to Manhattan gallery fave—and trendy Apple scenemaker—should quickly pack brush and canvas and head for the School of Visual Arts. ▶

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII Manoa

● This simply mah-velous school might be aptly nicknamed "Paradise U.," so thoroughly enchanting is its environment on the island of Oahu. Lovingly built midway between Waikiki and Honolulu, UH features a divergence of architecture that is a feast for the eyes. Students often sit entranced on the terrace of one of the beautiful buildings, gazing off into the spectacular horizon. It's just possible that these students are relaxing to build up strength for the awesome parties that have made this school a modern-day legend in the annals of campus craziness. Needless to say, these revels, as well as many other on-and-off-campus activities, are fueled by the abundance of primo smoke that is Hawaii's most righteous resource. A highly communal ambience permeates the campus, as if the rest of the world simply did not exist. After all, if you were a student at this dream school, would you care about the outside world?

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA Chapel Hill

● Although the South is inherently stuck in its history of slavery and isolation, the Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill area is one of the most progressive vicinities below the Mason-Dixon line. Over ten years ago the Southeastern Lesbian and Gay conference was started by a group at Chapel Hill, establishing UNC as one of the South's most sexually progressive schools. But the majority of the students are not that hip—they even look act and talk alike. You have to be willing to create your own scene here, but the weather—with its spring magnolias, and the campus—with its expansive lawns and neo-colonial architecture, help make the effort worth it. This school is uncool enough to be cool.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO Chicago, Ill.

● Many were the days that the University of Chicago only admitted prepubescent nerds full of acne and sexual inse-

curities. In the '40s, under the creative authority of a man called Hutchinson, the college eliminated the "three F's": football, fraternities and fun. Most of the students didn't bemoan the lack of football and fraternities—by the '60s it became a sense of campus pride. But no fun? Despite the gloomy Gothic architecture and the remaining psychotic energy of intensely serious and usually unhappy students of yore, the campus maintains a certain camp, underground level of cool. Since nobody at Chicago ever went to a prom, students hold an "anti-prom" every two years called "The Lascivious Costume Ball." A few years back, one attendee appeared wearing peanut butter and a slinky. The women tend to be rebellious here (in the '30s, East Coast rebel females flocked to Chicago to escape the Seven Sister Circuit), and most do not shave their legs. For a wet drink and sloppy pick-ups mixed with erudite conversation, check out Jimmy's, the campus bar. And catch the campus radio station, which recently expanded its broadcast power and takes a lot of requests. If you need help out of suicidal tendencies, call the hotline which is staffed by trained "reflective listeners," and put together by pop psychologist Carl Rogers.



HOLLINS COLLEGE Winter Park, Fla.

● It's called Winter Park not because of its year-round beach weather, but because most residents of this campus town don't live here, they "winter" here. The student population is less than 1,500. Most coeds come with an expensive prep school past, and the title-page headline of the admissions brochure reads "You don't have to be cold to get a good education." Who could disagree with an attitude like that? Windsurfing is a really big thing here, but golf might be the biggest. Florida's drug laws are really tight—students aren't even permitted to own roach clips or rolling papers or anything that could be labeled "parapher-

nal." With that kind of severe repression going on, you can imagine how earnest and happening the drug scene is. Even hip psychedelics. Anyway, students who are really hip can always drive to Gainesville.

BENNINGTON COLLEGE Bennington, Vt.

● Although historically the most expensive school in the country, Bennington has its roots and image in a wealthy Bohemian lifestyle rather than a rich Wall Street attitude. It's Harvard for the artsy-fartsy set. Sex is the most popular sport, and none of the students get grades on their papers and courses (just comments). The big party is their "Dress to Get Laid" affair where, not surprisingly, many students arrive in their birthday suits. But usually the students are too style-conscious to appear anywhere undressed. Bennington bohos know every look that's ever hit the World Fashion Scene. It sure makes looking at each other more fun—and it helps set the stage for the number-one campus sport.

UNIVERSITY OF INDIANA Bloomington

● This is a fine example of a huge major state university (40-50,000 students) that manages to transcend a host of negative factors and still emerge with its coolness intact. The Bloomington campus is beautiful, set in a verdant valley and showcasing some splendid architecture (Legendary architect I.M. Pei designed the school's art museum.) There is a large contingent of yuppies and yahoos—no surprise there—but these mainstream types are offset by a sizable number of campus hipsters: art students, student filmmakers, neo- and ex-hippies, music students. For the latter, the school features a great music department, staffed by some topflight musicians and endowed in part by monies donated by alumnus Hoagy Carmichael who wrote the classic ballad "Stardust" while an undergraduate there. There is plenty of off-campus action for the school's party animals: The

Second Story rock club and Bu twinkle's gay disco share the same building, while the Bluebird club is the premier hotspot for blues, jazz and rock. Bloomington is one of the Midwest's main distribution points for drugs from Florida and Mexico, so there is no shortage of controlled substances on campus, especially pot and coke. Best of all are the nearby scenic limestone quarries, where fun-loving students indulge in coed skinny-dipping and raucous partying. (Sorry, no credits are given for these activities.) And unlike many colleges in the uptight '80s, sex is still a prime pastime at this cool school.

HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE Hampshire, Mass.

● Hampshire College is probably the most progressive institution of higher education in America. There are no required classes, no credits, no required class hours and no grades! Hampshire students draw up their own educational agenda, discuss it with a committee of faculty advisors, then proceed to follow their own game plan. This young (founded 14 years ago) liberal arts college was conceived as a school that would be on the cutting edge of experimental education and it has more than lived up to that noble conception. It also offers the extra advantage of being part of a Five College Exchange Program with its neighboring western Mass. schools: Amherst, Mount Holyoke, Smith and the University of Massachusetts. So the Hampshire student has the best of both worlds: going to a tiny (975 students) progressive school, but also having access to the facilities of four of the nation's finest colleges. The school's location in western Massachusetts is another major plus factor—this area was a center of the counterculture in the '60s (the location of Alice's Restaurant, among other things), and remains one of the hippest places on the planet. If you want to go to a school where you determine what kind of education you'll get and how you'll go about getting it, and have the added advantage of living in a won-

continued on page 75

Hello, my name is Jeffery Demarco, President and Founder of PYRAPONIC INDUSTRIES

In pursuit of my own master's thesis, I generated the most extensive popular literature library in the world. Then, I generated the most extensive scientific bibliography in the world. I then went into a laboratory under Federal license at a major university in which I designed a laboratory grade growth chamber called the PHOTOTRON.

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 All of the scientific literature. I did. And look
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 Hawaii. I suggest that when you finally achiev
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In fact you will grow the plant 5 to 9 months, 6 to 12 feet tall. In fact you will average a 6 inch internodal length. (distance between budding sites). In fact have a 10% budding ratio at the tops of the plant. In fact, throw away 90% of the plant material (leaves/shake). And in fact YOU MUST START ALL OVER AGAIN.

Look. The only thing I'm wasting nine months on is a baby, number one. Number two, I do not want a tree in my house. And number three, I am not going to pay the ELECTRIC BILL TO PRODUCE THE SUN somewhere in my closet. Do not let its pretty looks fool you. Do not let its size (3 1/2 feet tall x 18 inches wide) fool you. Do not let its soft glow fool you.

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Author's Note: I thank the following people for their comments on earlier drafts of this article: David B. Collier, Robert D. Woodberry, and two anonymous reviewers for *Journal of Church & Society*.

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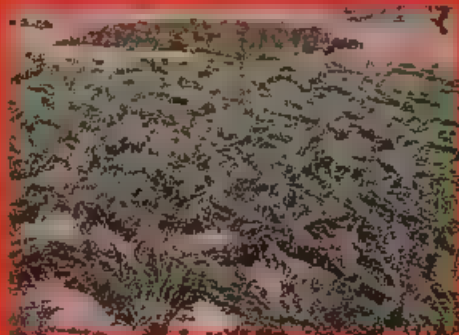
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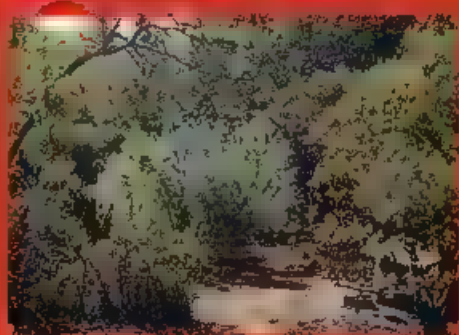
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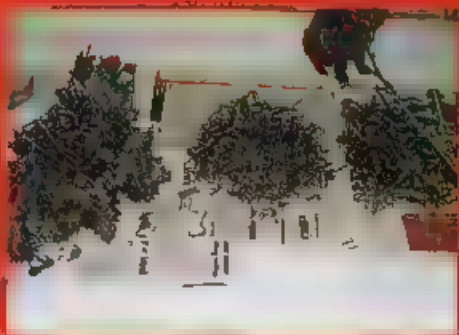
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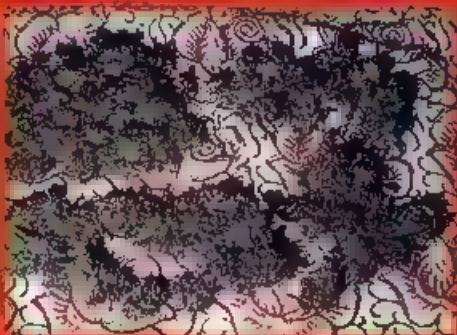
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PHOTOS BY ROSENTHAL

GROW AMERICAN

BY ED ROSENTHAL

WORLDWIDE

HARVEST

HINTS

● IN THE 20 YEARS SINCE AMERICANS started growing marijuana, they have become the world's most scientific farmers, with the best cultural and breeding techniques. Domestic American marijuana compares favorably with most imports and is a standard of quality to match in much of the cultivating world. Even so, we can learn a lot from traditional farmers.

In India, where the state governments regulate and tax marijuana sales, most of the marijuana is dried and cured using methods similar to those in Colombia. Although a significant portion of the THC is either lost or converted to less potent analogs during processing, the remainder is trapped in the tight bud, and is relatively stable. It can be moved over long distances with little deterioration.

Moroccan farmers grow a very weak variety of marijuana, which is concentrated to form hashish. Even so, Moroccan is not considered great hash. Before Westerners introduced hash to the country in the early '60s, Moroccans smoked kief, which is a mixture of finely-cut tobacco and low-grade marijuana. Kief is smoked in a hookah, which is a long-stemmed water pipe. The high is not reached quickly, but builds up over several hours of taking the mixture. To counteract the sedative effects, tokers usually drink strong coffee.

In the U.S., sinsemilla production has become *de rigueur*. Americans either pick the individual buds as they ripen, or if security demands it, cut the whole plant when most of the buds have ripened. Most growers start curing and manicuring at the same time.

When the plants are picked, the leaves contain a lot of starch and various pigments including chlorophyll. Chlorophyll gives pot that green, minty taste. When the plants are picked, the cells continue metabolic processes until they die from dehydration. By placing them in a dark area, various metabolic processes are reversed. The starch, which is a reserve of energy held in the leaf, is converted to sugar for use by the cells, which are deprived of the products of photosynthesis.

The chlorophyll is degraded as they use up their limited resources.

The longer that the cells are kept alive, the more of a "cure" the buds will have. The problem with a long cure is that the cells weaken as they lose energy and begin to dehydrate. They are vulnerable to attack by molds. The best way to prevent mold attacks is to keep a strong breeze going in the curing room. Molds grow best at about 50 to 80 degrees. If there is an indication of mold attack, the temperature should be raised above 80 degrees.

As the plants are curing, they are also drying out. The amount of time that this takes can vary considerably. Variables include temperature, humidity and draft. A room full of buds curing at 60 degrees may take several weeks to dry, while a few buds from a quarter-pound plant might dry in a few days at room temperature. Once the buds have dried, it takes them a few weeks to reach full potency. This is probably the result of continuing decarboxylation of the THC molecule, which is bound to a water molecule when the plant is alive. The THC becomes active only after it loses the water molecule.

The diligent farmer starts manicuring the buds as the plants are curing. It is slower going to trim when the buds are still wet, but fewer glands seem to fall off moist buds.

India

1. The fields are grown from mixed seed and the plants are at different stages of development when they are picked. However, here on the government-regulated farms, all of the plants are picked in late November, when most of the plants are mature. The buds are well-seeded. Here, the harvest, which was brought from the fields in bullock carts, is unloaded in the processing area.

2. Tribal and lower-caste women are paid minimal wages to strip all of the vegetation from the plants.

3. All of the stripped material is placed in piles six inches deep and twenty feet square. A concrete roller is used to compress the buds. The vegetation begins to ferment and an acrid ammonia odor rises from the piles. After several hours, workmen pick the buds from the pile and place them in baskets. The remaining vegetation, which has desiccated, is removed as waste.

4. The workmen make new piles from

● America's pot farmers can learn from the wise ways of their foreign counterparts.

the buds in their baskets. They repeat this process several times a day for about three days. At night, large stones are placed on the piles to further compress the buds.

5. Many of the seeds drop from the buds and the leaf is all destroyed, so that only the buds, which have lost their greenness in the ferment, are left. Rather than being interested in improving the quantity or uniformity of their product, the officials believe that only the poor smoke ganja (supposedly to drown their sorrows), and more potent stuff would just make them lazier.

This weed is considered some of the poorest quality in India, and sells for half the price of better-quality ganja. Only the poorest people smoke it.

Morocco

6. This entire valley and mountainside in the Rif Mountains is devoted to growing pot. Each terraced area is farmed by a single family. Each family has its own technique. Usually the seeds are broadcast, and between 15 and 30 plants grow per square foot. Each plant grows only a main stem.

7. The plants are cut with a scythe and tied into small sheaves.

8. The sheaves are sun-dried.

9. The sun bleaches most of the chlorophyll from the plants and leaves them crackling crisp.

10. The dried grass is stored in watertight buildings while awaiting conversion to hashish.

America

11. Typical: outdoor field hidden in the woods.

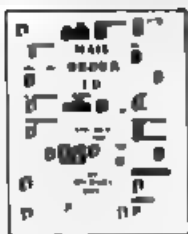
12. Close-up of bud. The small glands are all filled with THC and glisten in the sun. This bud is ripe.

13. Leaves are trimmed from the bud, leaving mostly the flowers.

14. Yield from the bud. Large leaves are suitable only for cooking. Trim leaves are milder and more potent and are sometimes used as "morning stash." The buds are the prized product.

15. The dried buds are ready for bagging. ●

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ABSINTHE

/ continued from page 30

of the 1938 Spanish Civil War, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*

Absinthe became synonymous with the Bohemian cafe life of Paris in the latter half of the 19th century. Poets of the time wrote about the effects of absinthe and often wrote under the influence of the liqueur. It may have been introduced by French soldiers who had become familiar with wormwood mixed with wine as a fever medicine during the Algerian campaigns of the 1840s. In any event, by the 1870s its use had become widespread among the creative intelligentsia, professional people, and most anyone else who could afford and was inclined to sit in the cafes and sip the milky-greenish fluid.

Although it was popularly believed to "impart renewed activity to the brain, develop new worlds of ideas, expand consciousness, and thereby inspire noble works of imagination in literature and art," many were well aware that it had a dark side as well. Both Edgar Degas and Edouard Manet painted most unflattering paintings of absinthe drinkers, and their unsavory depictions reflected popular prejudices against absinthe.

Desired effects included hallucinosis, euphoria, consciousness alteration, stimulation and intoxication. Absinthe was popularly believed to be an aphrodisiac.⁴ The more flamboyant users were in the semi-underworld of the Paris left bank. Many of these bohemians were also involved in morphine and laudanum use, opium and hashish smoking and other drug-related activities.

In the early 20th century, negative public opinion prevailed and absinthe came more and more to be seen as a menace. In 1912, its importation was forbidden by the National Pure Food Board. In 1915, at the height of World War I, the French general assembly prohibited the sale and manufacture of absinthe.

Despite its illegality, absinthe is said to be still available in some parts of France and North Africa, and to a few select old-timers in New Orleans. Artemisia absinthium can be found in herbal form at herbal medicine and health food stores.

HAZARDS AND LIABILITIES

● There is a laundry list of bad effects attributed to the chronic use of absinthe. These include excessive drunkenness similar in description to the effects of sedative-hypnotic drugs, contractions of the face muscles and extremities, loss of appetite and gastrointestinal distress, anxiety and paranoia, energy loss and numbness, headaches, delir-



ARNIE CHARNICK

ium, paralysis and death. Epileptic fits were recorded as well as several forms of madness. Although the drug was billed as an aphrodisiac, it was also cited as causing impotence and a general loss of physical energy. Sleep disturbances characterized by insomnia, nightmares and frequent waking were common. The visual and auditory hallucinations it caused could be frightening in their vividness and content. These seem to resemble the psychedelic "bad trips" of a later generation. A clear assessment of the effects of wormwood is made difficult by the fact that absinthe also contained high proof alcohol. Many of the sedative-hypnotic symptoms that have been cited may be the result of alcohol poisoning rather than chronic thujone intoxication.

FIRST AID PLUS

● In that absinthism is not a current clinical problem, the treatment of it and absinthe intoxications is open to conjecture. As with any psychoactive substance, however, abstinence from absinthe and the development of sound recovery and support is probably the best policy. ●

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LETTERS

/ continued from page 8

I came to see him and he had been transferred. I asked some embarrassing questions about whether or not there was a custom or policy of denying inmates the effective assistance of counsel, thereby failing the "attitude test" and arousing the suspicions of the guards that I must have been a parolee at large and not a lawyer. As a result, my car was searched and I was arrested when a defective .45-caliber Government Combat model automatic pistol was found in the manufacturer's carton. (I had intended to return it to the dealer from whom it was purchased earlier that day, also a client, but I arrived in court late due to delays in an earlier case that day and missed him. I had forgotten the empty gun was in my car's trunk.) Naturally, I was accused of attempting to smuggle a weapon into prison, a felony, despite my explanation. Predictably, my explanation was omitted from the police report, and the name of my client and a phone number

mona, but, just the same, I seem to have been targeted as a suspect—what I am suspected of, I don't know.

I guess that brings up tip number 27: If you represent unpopular causes (or unpopular persons, from a police point of view), you had better watch out at all times, especially if you're into civil disobedience, contraband possession, or political agitation.

In my car, it was just an accident. But it shows a custom or policy (*modus operandi*) that people with something to hide should know about, to add to Mr. Michaels' 25 tips.

Incidentally, the 25 tips were in the first issue of *HIGH TIMES* that I ever purchased. Based on this single issue, I request that you please place my name on your mailing list.

—Ronald Steven Mintz
Pomona, Calif.

FAULTY STARS

On page 74 of your August '85 issue top right, you have the word astronomy instead of astrology. I know, I know, you probably got 22 million letters about that, right? I figured I would tell you just in case nobody noticed.

—Richard Guzewicz
Keyport, N.J.

I guess you might think that for us here at the magazine, what's high is high. But our apologies to astrologers for confusing their work with that of Galileo and Johannes Kepler. — Ed

POT IS IT

I was reading your issue of June '84. In it was a letter titled, "Youth Take Heed" (p. 7). Maybe if they tried pot before knocking it they'd rather not waste their time griping about it!

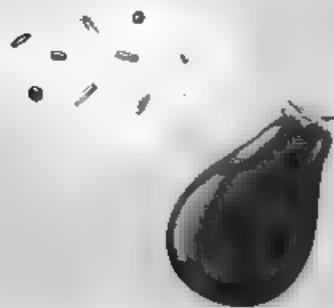
I drink somewhat (beer, mostly). I smoke once in a while, but I can tell you two things: I'd rather smoke a joint than drink a pint of Weller. At least I don't go off the wall. And I don't get where I'm all S.F.'ed and can't have sex and so on! Keep up the good work!

—David Reed
Ft. Worth, Tex.

LOVE ME, LOVE MY POT

I love your magazine. You never mislead a person into thinking that hard drugs are O.K. You always tell the gospel truth. I have been a pot smoker for 10 years. I love weed and opium. I hate whiskey, beer and wine because they upset my stomach. Also beer: you drink it, you get bloated. But pot is probably the best way for a person to get high. Hope they will legalize it soon. Thank you for printing a fine magazine.

—Dan Hart
West Virginia



MARK NEWGARDEN

were written upon the gun carton to fabricate evidence against me.

The local judge didn't buy the fabricated evidence and dismissed the charge, but if I had brought the dreaded marijuana (we call it "pigweed" in California since the local police have cornered the market and sell inferior merchandise while suppressing competition) or any other drugs into the prison parking lot, the story would have been a lot different.

Being a lawyer, I immediately sued the State of California, the County of San Bernadino, and the City of Chino for violating my civil rights. Ever since that time, CAMP-type helicopters have circled my new house as well. My hobby is photography, and I have obtained some interesting videotapes of helicopters circling and apparently taking pictures of me. Moreover, visitors, such as the electric-company meter reader, the man who cuts the lawn, etc., have thoroughly inspected the foliage at close proximity. Now, I can't even grow indoor plants to decorate the office, and I'm sure that there are no marijuana gardens in Po-

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by Adam Gottlieb
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COLLEGES

continued from page 68

derful part of America, check out Hampshire College. But, uh, don't tell 'em HIGH TIMES sent ya—no school is that cool.

NEED COLLEGE

Portland, Ore.

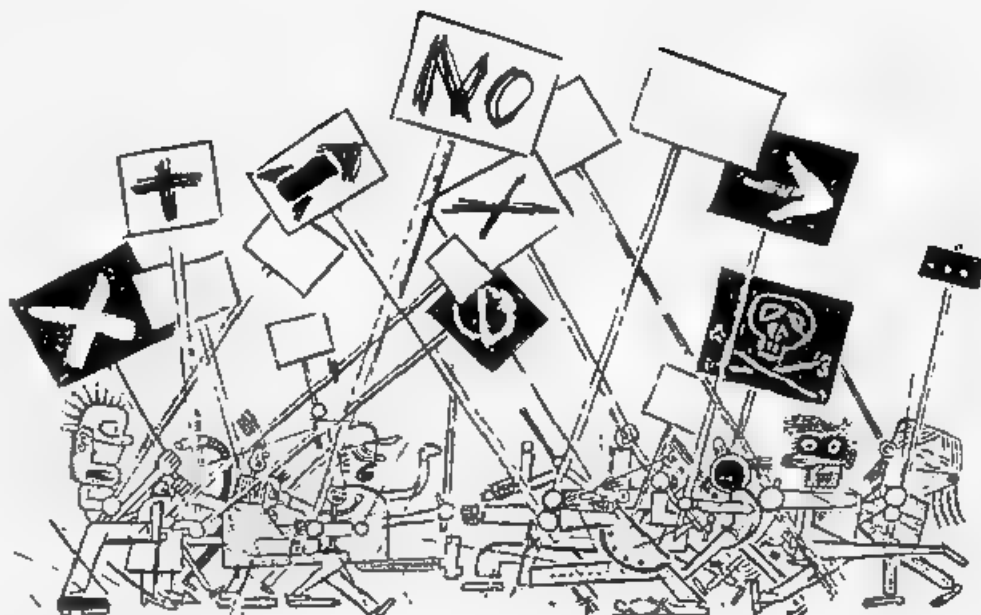
● Hipness is not just an option at Reed College, it's practically a requirement for admission. The 1,100 students at this small liberal arts school are dedicated to the proposition that cool is the rule (Thanks, Huey!) Some would say that nonconformity is so *de rigueur* on this campus that it becomes its own kind of conformity—a few years back a student wrote a column for the college paper called "New Wave Conformist"—but better than the LaCoste-shirts-and-designer-jeans conformity that plagues so many yupped-out colleges these days. Offbeat attire is the order of the day at Reed, ranging from torn sweaters and ragged jeans to accesso-

riated pajamas. But the students' individualism runs deeper than funky clothes. They're heavily into sexual freedom of every persuasion, freedom of expression and the pursuit of inner knowledge. Reed students also rate high on the partying scale and they're seriously into consciousness-raising drugs.

MDA, Ecstasy, pot, mushrooms and LSD. Being located in Port and is also a plus, the city has been a haven for hipsters since the '60s—sort of a sister city to San Francisco—and is considered one of the "livable" places in America. (Powell's used book store in Portland is a treasure trove for the

student with eclectic interests.) There's a lot to be said for the University of Oregon in nearby Eugene, it, too, is a cool school in a hip city. But the small, cozy campus and non-competitive atmosphere of Reed College give it the edge, albeit a slight one, over its neighbor to the south.

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ASK ED

continued from page 52

were growing cucumbers, eggplants and strawberries.

Commercial pH adjusters such as "pH Up" may be useful for this purpose, diluted to raise the pH of the spray to 7.5 or 8 pH. I have not had a chance to experiment with this technique for controlling molds and fungi and would appreciate any feedback on its efficacy.

At various times I have been tempted to use chemical fungicides, but once I read the label I was not able to reconcile the dangers of using dangerous, even toxic poisons and then smoking the sprayed material. The thought of an accident in which I contaminated myself or my clothing with a simple spill, or even of breathing the vapors as I applied it, is another factor keeping me from using any of these substances. Growers do report, though, that some of the chemicals stop some infections right in their tracks. That makes me even more wary about using fungicides. The fungi and molds are two groups of plants which are notoriously hard to kill. The chemicals must be extremely toxic to do their work, and I believe that the fungi have more resistance to these poisons than I do.

If you do decide to use a fungicide, buy one which is specifically recommended for vegetables. Fungicides recommended for ornamentals and not vegetables are not to be used for anything to be eaten, smoked or drunk. The label should show a short minimum-time before it is safe to eat vegetables sprayed with the fungicide.

Dear Ed,

I have this one dynamite plant that outshines the rest. I'd hate to see it gone forever. How can I keep it going?

—Freeman
Hawkins, Fla.

● Creating seed from this plant will not preserve its exact genetic make-up even if it were crossed with itself. This is because the corresponding genes on each pair of chromosomes are keyed differently for a particular characteristic. There is almost an infinite variety of gene combinations created and each pollen grain and female flower has its own combination.

In order to preserve this particular set of genes, the plant, or part of it, must be continued. Luckily, even at mature harvest, cuttings can be taken. They should be transferred to a vegetative-growth (long-day) light cycle and rooted.

In some parts of the country, where the winters are mild, plants can be overwintered outdoors. Leave some leaf material on the stems. In some parts of the

country, which have only a few cold snaps, the plants can be protected from the worst weather. A plastic bag or wrap or a wire frame mini-greenhouse will do. If they live, the plants will start to grow vigorously again in the spring, and short-season varieties will bear a spring crop because of the long nights.

Growers sometimes dig the pruned plants out of the ground and keep them growing indoors during the winter. Try to dig at least five gallons of earth out. A half-bushel may be more appropriate for some plants. Although many roots will be cut or damaged, there should be enough to keep the plant going. Remember to leave some leaf or bud on the plant. Once in a container, the plant should be placed indoors under lights. If it is maintained over the winter, it can be transplanted outdoors in the spring.

● NORML Australia, which is an active, people-oriented organization with a lot of spunk, has spearheaded the attitudinal change of the public and government of that island nation. It looks like simple possession and cultivation will be legalized in some states there in the not-too-distant future. It has an interesting magazine which is published on an irregular basis, but also sends members lots of other stuff to keep in touch.

I'm not sure what their membership fee is, but if you send them \$25 (U.S.), I'm sure they'll sign you up. Tell them I told you to write. Their address is: NORML, G.P.O. Box 91, Sydney 2001, Australia.

● Bob Pisani, founder of the International Legal Defense Counsel (ILDC), recently sent me a very interesting article entitled "Marijuana Misuse in African States." The scholarly essay was published in the *International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice*, Vol. 6, No. 1, Spring/Winter 1982. The author, Patrick Edobor Igbinovia, has a law-enforcement/medical point of view, but provides information on marijuana and marijuana use all over Africa. He provides information on cultural practices associated with it, too. Available at your local reference or college library.

● I welcome comments, tips and questions regarding marijuana and marijuana cultivation. Send all letters to Ask Ed, HIGH TIMES, 17 W. 60th St., New York, NY 10023. Also send entries for the Bud, Plant and Garden of the Month Contests. All correspondents whose letters or photos are used will receive a free copy of my book, *Marijuana Growers Handbook*, Indoor/Greenhouse Edition.

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MDMA

continued from page 36

of the name "Ecstasy" itself, which really has nothing to do with its effects. Ecstasy was just a promotional name developed by some of the early merchandisers: a good name to sell pills by.

So there's no real aphrodisiac effect?

Apparently not. People I've spoken to, both the psychiatric clients and the street experimenters, say that it generally has the effect of increasing communication and the sense of togetherness, but if anything, it has a negative effect on the *urgency* of performance. It sort of effectively inhibits erection, because the thinking is just not going in that direction. It's hard to tell, because when you get into drugs and sexuality, it's all so interconnected.

How's it interconnected?

For example, you don't know if a person is failing to get aroused because of some physical reaction occurring directly in the brain's genital-urinary apparatus, or if it's just that the psychological effects of the drug are bent in directions of sexuality away from physical sexuality.

So let me ask you, is Ecstasy really spelled MDMA?

To really understand the answer to that one I recommend people read this book.

And what role does the Haight Free Clinic play in this?

Well, on the one hand we gather data on drug abuse, and decide if treatment needs to be developed to deal with different manifestations of it. Essentially, so far, we see few cases of MDMA abuse. We use conventional time-honored reassurance and talk-down procedures to deal with the anxiety episodes. On the scientific side, we try to foster an understanding of the drug and the issue surrounding it, in the general public as well as in the scientific and medical communities. Which leads to the publication of my book, and to our planning of a national conference on MDMA in May next year, to be sponsored by the Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic's Training and Education Project. It'll be chaired by Dr. David Smith and myself, we'll have a variety of speakers, including Dr. Alexander Shulgin, who is the most prominent chemistry researcher on this drug. We'll have panels composed of treatment and epidemiological people who've dealt with it, panels of doctors who've used it in treatment research, pharmacologists and biochemists who are doing research on it, and representatives from the FDA and the DEA to discuss the legal issues. We're looking for a well-rounded conference deliberating the drug and its issues. I don't think there's that much connection between use of something medically, and the abuse of it recreationally or in the street. I think one of the ongoing problems we have is that those two issues get tangled when you're talking about drugs. ●

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BEHIND BARS

Lonely, young, white male in good shape and knowledgeable, seeking correspondence from all. Richard Kuzda, 84 A 6964, Wyoming Correctional Facility, Attica, NY 14011

I would like to have contact with a female from the outside. I have brown hair, brown eyes, age 24, 160 pounds, like to write letters. John Gaziano, Box 565, Billerica, MA 01821

My name is Junior Lane, white, 5'7", 147 lbs., red hair, green eyes. I'm 27 yrs. old. would like to hear from all ladies. Interested in skating, partying, cars and having good times. All letters will be answered. Write to: Junior Lane 169-340, P.O. Box 57, Marion, OH 43302

Write to a friend—male—25— serving life in prison; needs your mail. Jim Hanna, 954 Forest St. Baltimore MD 21202

Jeff Bonnett, 1004 C St., Ellensburg, WA 98926

John Kingston, P.O. Box 900-J, Raybrook, NY 12977

Fred D. Graham #156-435, Box 57 Marion, OH 43302

Busted chemist needs new friends. Prefer women, but will write anyone. Steve Jones, 347407 Rt 2, Box 250, Palestine TX 75801

My name is Steven Collins and I am a white male, 5'11" 170 lbs. with red and brown hair and green eyes. I would really like to have someone to write to, to help pass the time. Steven Collins #67013, Drawer N, Trenton, NJ 08625.

Man in prison would like to hear from intelligent women who don't play games and are good looking. Have two years to go and I'm searching for the right lady to stand by me. Send pics, I'll do the same. Keith Houston, P.O. Box 60/NSP Carson City, NV 89701

I'm 26 years old, 6'2" and love sports. I'm white and I'm very much in need of someone to correspond with in my area. I'm not well off and need all the help that you can provide, especially help in contacting some people. Robert Brewer Rt 1 Box 36, Jackson, NC 27845

Lonely prisoner wishes to correspond with woman for lasting friend or companion. W/m, 30 years, brown hair and eyes. 5'8" 155 lbs. Jerry Stroud, P.O. Box 8101-2113, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-0001.

Lonely prisoner, 37 years old, desires open, sincere correspondence with anyone. Will answer all mail. David G. Brooks, P.O. Box 69, London, OH 43140-6069

Disabled Vietnam veteran, incarcerated, no family or friends. w/m, 40 years. Need correspondence. Cam Tomarchio, P.O. Box 607 Carson City, NV 89701

Lonely prisoner seeking letters from ladies. Wayman E. Harris, Rt 1 P.O. Box 36, Jackson, NC 27845

Calif. prisoner wishes to correspond with intelligent women that enjoy art. Ronald W. Wiggins, P.O. Box A-E, CNC East, Apt. 1250, SLO, CA 93409

Calif. prisoner wishes to correspond with women (any race) from 24-45 (or 50). Black man, soft-spoken, understanding and concerned to write women for friendship or marriage.

Gregory Supreme Smith, P.O. Box 8101, San Luis Obispo CA 93409-0001

Calif. prisoner wishes to correspond with some good folks. 32 years. [Aquarius] 6'1", 195 lbs. brown hair, blue eyes. Tep C. Wright Route #1 Box 36 Jackson NC 27845.

I'm 22 yrs. old, white, 5'9", 158 lbs., brown hair and eyes. Will answer all letters. Lance Vivencio 84C-432, Collins Correctional Facility, Helmsuth, NY 14079.

Michael Comeaux, Box A-E C-09169, San Luis Obispo, CA 93409

I'm 28 yrs. old, male, with brown hair, blue eyes. My hobbies include tennis, bowling, running and of course partying. Ken Freed 164-965 P.O. Box 69, London, OH 43140-0069

California prisoner wishes to correspond with intelligent women that enjoy art. A lone artist. Ronald W. Wiggins B66717, P.O. Box A-E, CMC East, SLO, CA 93409, Apt. 1250.

Vincent Harris #170072, M C I H Box 2000 Rt 3 W.P.D.C., Hagerstown, MD 21740

Mr. Roland Tennelle Jones, 1/4 304, Marion Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 57, Marion, OH 43302

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CASE IN POINT

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Kevin Zeese, NORML Chief Counsel

BY RON SINDWAY

THE CAMP CONTROVERSY

● THIS MAGAZINE HAS PUBLISHED a number of articles over the past few months concerning the helicopter harassment, warrantless break-ins, and other irresponsibilities of the federal, state and local marijuana eradication effort in California known as the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP). The litigation which serves as the forum for these facts being presented in court is *NORML et al., v. MULLEN et al.*, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California. The preliminary injunction against the CAMP raiders is based upon a number of important (and some novel) constitutional and statutory theories. There are also other issues raised in the lawsuit, not covered by the injunction, which deals with the tension between legitimate law-enforcement efforts and the rights of privacy of the populace.

● Ground Searches and Seizures. The CAMP policy endorsed warrantless entries, searches and seizures on private property for "officer safety." The Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution protects people in their homes from entry without a warrant based on probable cause issued by a magistrate. The judge found that this CAMP policy would seem to epitomize the very practices that the Fourth Amendment was designed to prevent. The government's position was that the mere presence of buildings on lands near an eradication site poses an immediate threat to CAMP troops, and therefore gave the government the right to invade the structure without a warrant.

● General Warrants: The lawsuit also challenges the validity of CAMP search warrants that are issued. We have received copies of any number of warrants that violate the particularity requirement of the Fourth Amendment in that they describe multiple parcels covering hundreds of acres, where gardens and

associated buildings are only observed from the air on a small part of one of the parcels. This issue is still being litigated. As with any other issue, in order to obtain an injunction against governmental misconduct, plaintiffs are required to make an extremely difficult showing: that the government misconduct is a persistent pattern which is likely to recur.

● Roadblocks and Detentions: The lawsuit is also challenging the use of roving road blocks during CAMP raids. This issue is also still before the court. Detentions have taken many forms including hovering helicopters over vehicles. This issue is also still being litigated.

● Helicopter Activities. The injunction prohibits what the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has termed "harassment and other irresponsibilities" by helicopters. This has included random surveillance, buzzings, dive bombings, helicopter detention and the like. The Court has found there is a private cause of action for violation of federal air safety regulations since, among other things, complaints to the Federal Aviation Administration have resulted in people being told to call CAMP, that is, to call the people committing the wrongs, and report it to them. The creating of a private right of action on the basis of a violation of federal aviation regulations is a novel point of law which is required under the facts of this case. The government is contesting this theory vigorously.

The CAMP litigation also attacks the use of spy satellites, U-2s, and the threatened use of AWACS to spy upon the populace in the name of marijuana eradication.

In addition, the lawsuit seeks the certification of a statewide class of all residents of California who have had their civil rights violated by the CAMP program since 1983. Permanent injunctive relief is sought as well as general damages and punitive damages of up to \$100 million against those law enforcement officials personally responsible for violating clearly established constitutional and statutory safeguards. Again, the standard to get damages against law

enforcement personnel is extremely difficult to meet.

While the ultimate outcome of the various aspects of this massive litigation is not known at this time, the granting by the Court of the preliminary injunction has established firmly that CAMP, like any other organization or individual, is not above the law. We have been able to achieve the successes we have had to date due to a tremendous amount of community support in Northern California from people in the Civil Liberties Monitoring Project, and other residents of the area, and from guidance and assistance from the NORML organization. We have assembled a team of seven lawyers, including some of the finest trial and appellate lawyers in the United States. Elaine Leitner of the Kecker and Brockett Law Firm in San Francisco has worked tirelessly and brilliantly on all aspects of the case. Art Sohnet of San Francisco has provided strategy, constitutional theory, and his excellent in-court presence. Marshall Krause of Larkspur, California, made the winning oral argument during the government's appeal motion for an emergency stay of the injunction. Gordon Brownell, the chairman of the board of directors of NORML, and Jay Moller of Redway, California, have also made important contributions, as has Kevin Zeese, the NORML national director. Mel Pearlston and I, both of Miranda, California, have gathered the facts and worked on the legal aspects of the case.

At this time, CAMP is in the middle of a three-day nationwide eradication effort. It is no secret that the California campaign is intended to be a model for this nationwide effort. The lesson to be learned from the California experience is that the government will bend, stretch, and ignore the Bill of Rights in the name of marijuana eradication unless and until the people rise up and object. It is the obligation and responsibility of each of us to hold the government accountable when its paramilitary law-enforcement troops descend. The bottom line is that if you do not assert your civil rights, they will be gone forever. ●

● The lawsuit against
the CAMP cops raises
serious issues regard-
ing law enforcement
vs. the public's rights
to privacy.

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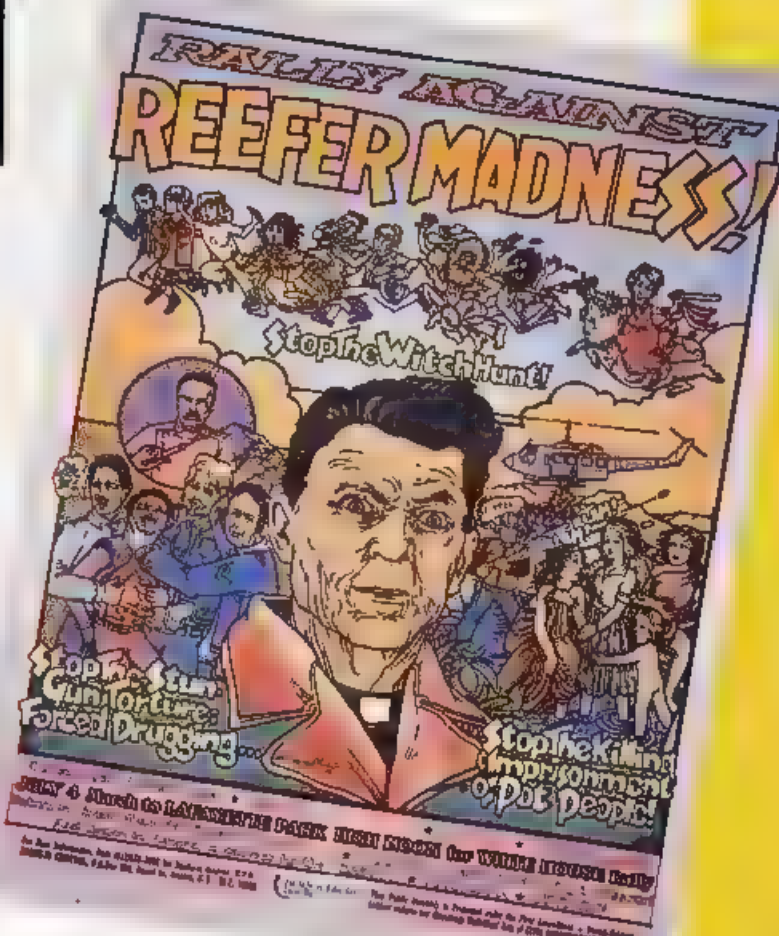
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MUSIC

BY LEE O'NEILL

REGGAE'S GREATEST DOPE HITS

● IN BLUES, THEY SING ABOUT SEX, love, hard times, the blues and drinking. In country music, they sing about sex, love, hard times, country music and drinking. In reggae, things are different. Reggae singers sing about sex, love, hard times, reggae music and smoking marijuana.

This is not to imply that Jamaicans and reggae musicians don't drink or sing about drinking. One of the first songs recorded in Jamaica was Laurel Aitkin's cover of "Hey Bartender" in a faithful Fats Domino style, and one of last year's biggest hits was Sugar Minott's "Buy Off the Bar." In addition, General Echo paid tribute to the Polish Influence on reggae ("In Heaven, There Is No Beer," etc.) with the brilliantly funny "Drunken Master." These songs, however, are not common. Far more common are songs such as Peter Ranking's "Sensi Addict," Little John's "Smoke Ganja Hard," Linval Thompson's "I Love Marijuana" and Johnny Osbourne's "Bring the Sensi Come."

There are several reasons for this. Herb is a lot cheaper than even beer. In "Kushempeng," Frankie Paul tells us that sensi costs "In the city a dollar a stick/In the country it's fifty cents," and given the prevailing exchange rate, this means between a dime and a quarter, U.S. money. The economic advantages for the consumer are obvious.

Ganja use is also an essential part of the Rastafarian lifestyle, being the first weed to grow from the grave of Solomon and also being an indispensable part of the meditative and reasoning processes. Since many reggae singers and most reggae musicians are Rastas, the herb is a natural subject for songs.

What is even more important, though, is the current dependence of the Jamai-

can economy on ganja cultivation. With the collapse of the bauxite mining industry, formerly Jamaica's biggest source of income, and the decline of agriculture and tourism, the illegal ganja trade has become the largest employer and cash producer on the island. It's no wonder singers sing about it.

It's probably impossible to pinpoint the first recorded ganja song, but the subject stayed underground throughout the ska and rock steady era. With the advent of the "new" reggae beat in the very late '60s and the growing influence of the Rastafarian movement in the early '70s, marijuana moved front and center, right up there with sex and Jah.

Reggae chronology is extremely difficult to sort out, but my guess is that the first ganja hit was either U Roy's "Chalice in the Palace" or Sugar Minott's "Oh Mr. D.C." U Roy was the first star of the DJ style, where the DJ will talk/chant/rap/scream/sing over an instrumental "dub" version of somebody else's song. Over the Techniques' "Queen Majesty," U Roy tells the story of how he smoked a chalice (holy water pipe) with Queen Elizabeth in Buckingham Palace. Sugar's tune implores a ganja cop not to bust him, as he needs to traffic to "feed my two kids and wife." This was the first of dozens of hits for Minott.

During the '70s, Bob Marley became the first international reggae superstar, drawing attention to reggae and Rastafari, a growing movement back home in Jamaica. Soon everyone was singing about Jah Holy Herb. The parade was led by ex-Wailer Peter Tosh, whose "Legalize It" became an anthem. Another member of the Marley family to achieve international fame was his wife, Rita. She made several songs before Bob's death in 1981, but scored big with "One Draw" in 1982 or thereabouts. "One Draw" was big enough to attract attention outside of reggae circles, with a perky rhythm and a playlet on the 12-inch version.

● When it comes to songs about drugs—especially ganja—even rock takes a back seat to Jamaican music.

The DJ style that began in the time of U Roy became the predominant style in the late '70s and early '80s, peaking with the rise to stardom of the enormously popular Yellowman. King Yellow is an albino DJ who combines a powerful charisma with a gift for pirating the best lyrics from the best DJs in Jamaica. "Sinsemilla" opens with a mock newscast detailing Yellowman's appearance in court on ganja charges, followed by a Yellow fellow of "Cocaine will blow your brain, but the sinsemilla is I-A-IE!" Combining the rhythm used by the Mighty Diamonds on "Pass the Koutchie" with lyrics "borrowed" from still-local DJs such as Josey Wales and Brigadier Jerry, Yellowman wove a new classic.

Speaking of the Mighty Diamonds, they and the Itals are among the last of the harmony trios that once dominated reggae. The Diamonds effortlessly groove over a breezy rhythm in the aforementioned "Koutchie," which was the inspiration for Musical Youth's "Pass the Dutchie." "Pass the Koutchie" is also as close to a perfect song as anyone is likely to get. The Itals, led by gifted songwriter Keith Porter, are a rougher, more gospelish group. "Herbs Pirate" graphically illustrates the reasons for going into the ganja business and some of the perils of that business.

John Holt's "Police and Helicopter" is another song warning about the dangers of the ganja biz. Holt was the lead singer of the Paragons (who cut the original version of "The Tide Is High") and left the group for a solo career.

These days reggae is in a state of transition, as the DJ style is fading and nothing has clearly come forward as a

continued on next page

THE HAVE-A-HIT PARADE

● HIGH TIMES picks the Top Ten reggae dope songs*

1. **U ROY** "Chalice in the Palace"
2. **SUGAR MINOTT** "Oh Mr. D.C."
3. **PETER TOSH** "Legalize It"
4. **MIGHTY DIAMONDS** "Pass the Koutchie"
5. **RITA MARLEY** "One Draw"
6. **ITALS** "Herbs Pirate"
7. **YELLOWMAN** "Sinsemilla"
8. **JOHN HOLT** "Police and Helicopter"
9. **FRANKIE PAUL** "Kushempeng"
10. **WAYNE SMITH** "Under Mi Sleng Teng"

*Listed chronologically, and chosen on the basis of popularity, historical significance and the author's purely personal preference

MUSIC

continued from previous page

replacement. On the one hand we have the neo-classic Frankie Paul, a big-voiced solo singer who has released four LPs, shared four LPs with other singers, and made an endless series of singles. Paul still hasn't made a bad record and shows no signs of slowing down.

On the other hand, we have Wayne Smith's "Under Mi Sleng Theng." The lyrics are really nothing special, except that in the spirit of modern, more deca-

dent times, Smith is singing about cocaine instead of sinse. The rhythm track, though, is a supercharged high-tech killer with no discernible acoustic instruments anywhere. "Sleng Theng" has spawned more than 20 songs with a copycat musical track in less than two months. That's success!

It's tough to predict the next trend that will dominate reggae—the classic Frankie Paul sound, Wayne Smith's high-tech approach, or some unforeseen groove. But one thing is certain: As long as there is reggae, there will be reggae songs about dope. ●

HIGH FIVES

Alternative Record Charts

JOHN LELAND

ALBUMS

1. **Jonathan Richman and the Modern Lovers, *Rockin' and Romance*** (Twin Tone). Rock music's most lovable and frustrating child grows up just a little, and produces a series of neo-doo wop musings on subjects dear to us all: jeans, the beach, colors and baseball. Not his best, but good fun.
2. **Windbreakers, *Terminal*** (Homestead). Slow, psychedelic, folk-pop from the South (where else?). Homestead is the coolest label in America.
3. **Black Flag, *Loose Nut*** (SST). The Black Flag method: throw everybody out of the band and make records of poetry and instrumentals. Sucks, don't it? Thank Jah, however, that *Loose Nut* is a return to real songs—with a fierce crunch.
4. **Various Artists, *Return of the Living Dead Soundtrack*** (Enigma). Bad music about the lighter side of being dead from the Cramps, TSOL, 45 Grave, the Damned and others. Play only after midnight.
5. **Dinosaur, *Dinosaur*** (Homestead). Whammo guitar madness thrown into a dense but folk-pop sound.

SINGLES & EPs

1. **Fela Anikulapo Kuti, "Army Arrangement"** b/w "Cross Examination" (Celluloid). Two supertough, superfunky diatribes from music's most powerfully outspoken rebel. FREE FELA NOW!

2. **Robert Fripp, *Network*** EP (EG). Five all-star collaborations culled from the Crimson guitarist's albums, with guest vocals by Daryl Hall, Peter Dinklage and David Byrne.
3. **Attention, *What Have We Done*** EP (Mb/3). Solid pop tunesmanship, plus a Dylan obsession and guitar sound with plenty of teeth.
4. **Wiseblood, "Motorslug" b/w "Death Rape 2000"** (Wax Trax). Wiseblood is Jim Foetus (Clint Ruin, etc.) with Roli Mosimann of Swans, and this record is a moderately noisy dance-rock take on the horrors of the highway. Bet you can't listen to the tape loop on the B-side all the way through.
5. **Mandingo, "Harima"** (Celluloid). An African groove thing with one foot shaking to a New York dance sound.

HIGH FIVES INFO

Twin Tone, 445 Oliver Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55405
Homestead, 45 Alabama Ave., Island Park, NY 11558
SST, Box 1, Lawndale, CA 90260
Enigma, Box 2428, El Segundo, CA 90245-1528
Celluloid, 155 W. 29 St., NYC 10001
EG, c/o Jem, South Plainfield, NJ 07080
Mb/3, 330 W. 46 St., NYC 10036
Wax Trax, 2445 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, IL 60614

LETTERS

continued from page 73

DUTCH TREAT

After reading a current issue I decided to write you to give you some more information on the Dutch and French drug trade: soft drugs. As a frequent consumer of hash and weed in Amsterdam and the Hague, I developed a discriminating taste for different grades of hash.

Anyway, as I arrived in Paris some time ago, I went to Les Halles to score some After 2 a.m. this place near a fountain is the place. Most dealers had Colombian of a very poor quality, two-thirds stems and seeds and one-third smokeable. After refusing pieces of pressed vegetables, fish and dirt, some guys tried to give me very poor Red Lee and Moroccan. I said, "I come from Amsterdam. I want real hash!" Then I went to "The Big Guy" who had Moroccan that smelled right. He said it was the "best" in Paris. It was regular and too expensive, but we got high.

In Holland the most expensive hash is *Turkish*—seven dollars a gram two years ago. If you can get it, it's so super. I still think Turkish is the best and strongest—clear, if you know what I mean. Last week I bought it for \$2.38 gm. from a dealing friend.

In the Hague there are about a hundred or more "coffeeshops," "tea houses" and tea cafes. An American should visit "The Space Egg" near the central station. It is an egg-shaped dome with an "automatic dope machine." You put in a bill of 25 guildens, say what your favorite is, and it comes out on a conveyor belt! There is a man behind a little window in the egg wall if it's malfunctioning.

And mushrooms are rare!
 —B.S. Meyer
 Holland

A TIRED OLD CONCEPT

I really wish that HIGH TIMES would free itself from the concept that Reagan and his bunch are trying so hard to impress on the population: that all "drugs" are the same, without making any distinction between a god-created plant with medicinal properties like marijuana, and a powerful, refined pharmaceutical like cocaine. A doctor's prescription should be required for cocaine. Marijuana would seem to need no more regulation than tobacco does, perhaps a slight tax on the consumer and a warning on each pack that continued use may be hazardous to your previously conditioned construct of reality.

—Steven Wasserman
 Nashville, Tenn.



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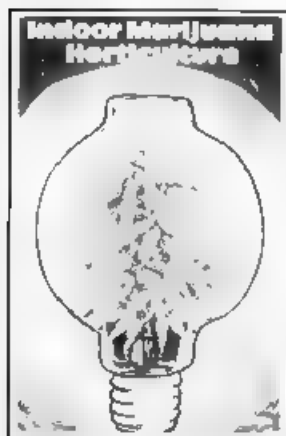
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FILM

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WAYNE WANG FINDS HIMSELF

● A HAND INCHES A BLURRY SNAP-shot into the camera's field of vision near the end of *Chan Is Missing*, as the weary voiceover explains, "Here's a picture of Chan and I still can't see him." Chan's sudden disappearance remains unexplained. Like the hero of Ralph Ellison's novel, the protagonist of director Wayne Wang's film is an invisible man.

Ellison's hero is invisible because racial prejudice has blinded those with whom he comes in contact. It's safe to assume that Wang's never-seen title character is also a victim of bigotry, but the movie is more concerned with Chan's invisibility to his own people. Just like the Charlie Chan characters of old mainstream American films, Chan represents all Asian-Americans. But by denying Chan's existence, Wang paralyzes the Hollywood stereotype. (Chan's surname is "Hung.") And in their unsuccessful, feature-length search for Chan, two cabbies in San Francisco's Chinatown create (and discover) complex, nonstereotypical characters who replace the missing Chan.

An alternate reading of this unsolved mystery sees Chan Hung as representing an older generation of Asian-Americans who cling to ancient customs and refuse to adapt to their new homeland. Thus, Chan is missing because he is a dying breed. Younger Asian-Americans, in their eagerness to Americanize, tend to

forget their roots. Yet they all must reconcile their Chinese heritage with contemporary life in the United States.

"I see the younger generation as being just as American as any Caucasian born in this country," explains Wang, "but subconsciously they have this real strong sense of being Chinese, and I think that creeps up now and then and creates a conflict within themselves. That's pretty common. You also do find a range, from those who just want to be all-American to the ones that remain mostly Chinese."

These themes of assimilation and cultural tradition are of special significance to the 36-year-old Wang, who moved to the United States from his native Hong Kong 18 years ago. They are also at the core of his recently released second feature, *Dim Sum: A Little Bit of Heart*, although they lay buried beneath the film's family-drama plot.

The cultural conflict in the movie rages most within a Chinese-American daughter who, though she is in her late 20s, still lives at home. The family baby, she is unwilling to leave her mother alone. She is caught between two worlds: the Chinese world of her mother's home and the pancultural San Francisco outside.

Wang does not believe that Asian-Americans are the only persons forced to make such a choice, but he does feel that the daughter's hesitancy to leave results from her heritage.

"In Chinese tradition, the extended family just sort of grows and stays very close to each other," said the director in his New York hotel room three weeks before the film's American premiere. "Either the married couple moves in with the husband's family, or they live down the street. That has been gradually changing over the last 10 years, but still, some Chinese-Americans, as American as they are, tend to have more guilt

or attachment to the nuclear family. And I think a lot of why the daughter in *Dim Sum* refuses to leave her mother just comes from the fact that she's been brought up to feel stronger about family. I don't think most Americans would deal with the mother that way."

It took Wang several years to resolve his own internal cultural conflicts. By the time he came to the United States to study painting at Foothill College near Palo Alto, California, he was, he claims, "primed to become American. And when I came over, even though I was out of place, I didn't accept that. I just tried my best to become American. But after becoming more American, I actually stopped and thought, 'Boy, I've become completely American,' and I went through another cycle of trying to be more Chinese than I needed to be."

After he received a master's degree in film and television from the California College of Arts & Crafts, Wang went back to Hong Kong and worked for Hong Kong television. But in 1975 he returned to America to develop community programs for recent immigrants in San Francisco's Chinatown. "I was trying to reach back into my own past because I felt that I had left it behind," he explains. "So I swung to two extremes before I finally accepted myself for being a little bit of both."

Wang's desire to be American was fueled initially by the American movies for which his father, an engineer and businessman, had a passion. (Wang was actually named for John Wayne.) "I saw a lot of American films (Capra, Westerns, film noir, Cagney, Bogart and the Rock Hudson/Doris Day family comedies), and I really felt that I wanted to be an American," recalls Wang. "I wanted to be Caucasian, I didn't want to be Chinese. People living here don't realize how powerful American films are overseas. Maybe less so now, but I think they truly were creating a world that dominated Hong Kong when I was growing up. And that world was something that I wanted to be part of."

Surprisingly, some of the movies Wang loved presented derogatory stereotypes of the Asian people. At the time, however, he didn't question them. "In the '50s a lot of films were coming out where the Americans were like the white gods coming to save the primitives," says Wang. "I felt like I was on the side of the Americans more than anything else. So in some sense they may have made me anti my own culture in a very, very subversive way. But when I was a kid in Hong Kong I wasn't aware of that."

It was not until he went to work in Chinatown that Wang realized how harmful those films were. And in 1978, after three years of community work, Wang returned to motion pictures, working on a half-

continued on page 96



● The director of *Chan Is Missing* uses the search for his own identity to explore Chinese cultural conflicts

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SCREEN SCENE

● THE SAN FRANCISCO MIME Troupe is proof that the anti-establishment spirit of the '60s not only lives, it thrives. The Mime Troupe has been skewering sacred cows and exposing the bulshit and hypocrisy of corrupt politicians for 26 years, and its work is as timely and vital today as it was when they played for free in the parks of the San Francisco Bay Area back in the hippie heyday. Now a documentary called *Troupers* has been made that chronicles the history of "the most outspoken theatre company in America." Produced and directed by Glenn Silber and Claudia Vanecko, *Troupers* recently premiered to rave reviews at the San Francisco International Film Festival's Fall Premiere Showcase. It includes interviews with ex-Mime Troupers Bill Graham (yes, the same Bill Graham of Fillmore and Live Aid fame) and Peter Coyote (*E.T.*), historic footage of founder Ronnie Davis and performances through the '60s and '70s, behind-the-scenes shots of current troupe members, and a recent tour of the Midwest with the Troupe's play *Steeltown*. This is one movie that, unfortunately, will not be playing at the multiplex in your local mall. To find out where it will be playing, call the Mime Troupe office at (415) 285-1717.

● WHAT'S THE QUICKEST WAY TO break into the movie business these days? Simple—just commit a crime that gets lots of publicity, and the film biz bigshots will beat a path to your door. Screen Scene has learned that two of Italy's Red Brigade terrorists have been hired as consultants on a film version of the kidnapping and murder of Italy's former Prime Minister Aldo Moro. What's more, it seems that the producers of the film may have hired the jailed terrorists because they thought the resultant publicity would help them clinch a financing and distribution deal for the film. The movie, to be based on Robert Katz' book *Days of Wrath*, will be directed by Liliana Cavani, with Katz handling screenwriting chores. The two terrorists, Valerio Morucci and Adriano Faranda, were brought into the project as "technical experts." "The imprisoned Red Brigade couple have recently confessed to their physical participation in the kidnapping of Moro and are serving life sentences for it," Katz told *Variety*. "All we are doing is using their inside knowledge to authenticate the screenplay and film project." Katz visits the terrorists in jail to partake of their technical expertise then weaves their stories into his screenplay. No word on how much the Red Brigaders are being paid, but we assume it's enough to keep them well supplied with cigarettes and candy bars.

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33 White 20/20 (300 mg.)	5.50	21.95	18.95	16.95	14.95
34 Pink 20/20 (300 mg.)	5.50	21.95	18.95	16.95	14.95
35 Blue 30/30 (300 mg.)	5.50	21.95	18.95	16.95	14.95
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TW

BY R. SMITH

LETTERMAN & LARRY "BUD"

● LIKE SOME CRAZY CONVERGENCE of Alfred E. Neuman and Gary Hart, that face is hard to forget, hard to trust. It's unmarked by earnestness, and maybe that's the secret of its appeal. David Letterman, gone cat of the early morning hours for millions of college kids, hepsters, yuppies and others who stay up late, lobs irony the way Dan Quisenberry unfurls an off-speed pitch.

And, like Quisenberry, Letterman's making a killing these days. Ratings are so id enough, the fans are manic. A guy I know who writes for *Saturday Night Live* came up with a sketch where a choir of smirking thatch-haired singers hawk their new record on late night TV; they were called, of course, the Lettermen. NBC nixed it; perhaps an example of the power of his stature.

Sure the comedy writing's top drawer, sure the guests are well-chosen. That's not the point. My dissent with *Late Night* is with the viciousness so frequently afoot, and with how the show's set up so that if you don't laugh with Dave, it's probably because you're the kind of person everyone else is laughing at. You've got one chance to show you're a hip dude like Daveo and Paul Schaeffer—that's to laugh at all those terribly unhip folks the show puts before the camera for national ridicule.

A lot of the show's humor is built on disassembling the legend of the entrepreneurial spirit, the spirit of movin' on up by your own hard work. Think of Dave's annual jaunts to the Inventors' convention in New York, where the big yuks come from laughing at the fruits of these basement tinkerers' labor. Or consider the shiteatingly earnest fake commercials for that new taste treat, Toast-on-a-Stick. I once saw a poor fool, a small businessman hyping this "100-per cent guaranteed" bait for fish: just spray it on your worm and the fish go nuts, he promised. Well, *Late Night* tested it out, in a pool full of trout. The guy and his aerosol bait-spray couldn't catch *anything*, and each time David returned throughout the show, his barbs at this fake were sharper.

But the thing is, Letterman wasn't prompting laughter at the product's Big Lie. Everyone was supposed to laugh at

● Ugliness lurks
beneath the laughs
on late night's
hottest show

the inventor, and boy did they: he got so flustered he couldn't speak, and that made the crowd howl even more. He was a fake, but he didn't deserve this. Unlike the celeb guests, who hide behind a camera persona, the toll-booth operators and inventors on *Late Night* can only be themselves, and their selves are veritably roasted to a crackly crunch on camera. They come out with more dignity than Letterman started with, but I wonder if they come out scalded.

Maybe the purest distillation of the show's humor is in those bits when a camera crew roams down a busy street with Dave coolly unreeling some *non sequitur* to a befuddled passerby. Or, more effectively, in the laffs department, with Dave pretending to take them seriously, and, in his deadpan, showing that *they* are the biggest joke of all. Last night I saw comedy writer and actor Harry Shearer on the show putting a tape recorder on Dave's desk as he sat down to schmooze. Letterman was truly freaked, obviously because his whole bit is to make *other* people squirm in the act of recording. He was being caught in his own trap, and he reached over to turn the recorder off.

Now some great art has been made from the warp and woof of this fundamental declaration: *I am not like you, motherfucker*. But that statement has got to be accompanied by a kick in the shins, and with a little fear—it's something expressed out of desperation. But for Letterman, revealing as little of yourself as possible while hooting at what others reveal is the ticket to the big hoochaws. I mean, the only thing I've learned about Letterman in three years of watching is that he has some problems with his cable TV. Can you imagine him in bed? On a camping trip? He's two dimensions of irony, nothing like a three-dimensional human being.

I can't imagine Larry "Bud" Melman in bed, either. But he's so much a person on *Late Night* it hurts. Usually that means it hurts *him*. One of the most poignant things I've ever seen was the night they first smashed things with a steam roller on *Late Night*, things like food, toys, household objects. Finally they plopped the ever-acquiscent Melman on the ground, and as the steam roller approached his chinny-chin-chins at the last minute, he got up yelling something like "hey wait a minute, I'm a human

being!" And through—because of—all the awful things he's paid to endure on *Late Night*, and through all the howls of laughter he receives for the way he reads cue cards, he's the best thing on the show. Once upon a time a French philosopher nominated Jean Genet—criminal, buttfucker and famous novelist—for sainthood. Today it's Melman's turn for canonization.

Here's a guy who collects *Playbills* by the yellowing heapful in his Bay Ridge apartment, who worships Bette Davis and Barbara Stanwyck ("because she's a Brooklynite"). He truly stumbled accidentally upon his *Late Night* fame, leaving behind his previous job as a receptionist in a Brooklyn drug-rehabilitation center.

"Oh God, David is the greatest guy," he told one interviewer. "Easygoing, terrific sense of humor, wonderful. I've really been lucky." This from a man treated like only the largest stupid pet trick on the show.

"I'm sorry, Mr. DeForest won't be able to do an interview," Melman's agent apologized. You know, it was for *HIGH TIMES* and all I worry, when Melman and his agent start taking themselves seri-

ously, using his real name (*Late Night* dealt him the Larry "Bud" monicker) and start intimating, well, a keener interest in squeezing somebucks out of this happy accident of Melman's fame. They're taking what I'm convinced was a real, unaffected human being and turning him into a stand-up comic celeb, the kind of person who might be a *guest* on Letterman.

As the new TV season rolls on, so do Melman's plans. He'll be on Letterman like usual, and he's got a "Spend a Day on the Beach with Larry 'Bud' Melman" tour worked out for college campuses this winter. Admit it: Melman in swimming trunks presiding over a luau is, well, a concept. He's making a video with up-and-coming comedian Judy Tenuta, and maybe doing some work with Pee-wee Herman (Herman and Melman are great friends, and Larry "Bud" was to have been in *Pee-wee's Great Adventure*, that avant-garde classic, but schedules conflicted). I hope the center can hold, and Melman/DeForest can get what he wants without losing what he had. Note to Larry "Bud": don't ever change, baby. ●

VIDEO VISION

● SOME OF THE HIGHEST HERB IN THE WORLD—SOME WOULD SAY THE HIGHEST—IS grown right here in the U.S. of A. And many would argue vehemently that the best of the domestic pot is California sinsemilla. Now you can learn the cherished techniques of the California sinse farmer from a videotape called, logically enough, *California Sinsemilla*. The tape covers every aspect of sinse-growing in loving detail: choosing the right spot for your garden, primo planting techniques, proper fertilization, irrigation methods and identifying plant sex, as well as post-harvest techniques such as drying, pruning and manicuring. The tape is available in Beta and VHS and was recorded in stereo. The best news is the price: a bargain-basement \$29.95, plus \$4 for shipping and handling. *California Sinsemilla* is available from J J Enterprises, 424 West Commonwealth Ave., Suite #295, Fullerton, CA 92632.

● BACK IN IN OUR VERY FIRST VIDEOVISION COLUMN (MARCH '85) OUR LEAD ITEM ENDED with this sentence: "Rumors are rife in the rock world that a videocassette of a live Prince concert is in the works, probably to be filmed during his current tour." Prince's management was quick to vehemently deny those rumors, the implication being, if you don't shell out the bucks to see Prince live—often at inflated ticket-scalper rates—you don't get to see him at all. Well, guess what, truth fans? A videocassette was recently released of, yup, a live Prince concert, filmed during his then-current tour. Score one for the VideoVisionary, subtract one from Prince's management. But in the every-cloud-has-a-silver-lining department is the fact that the live Prince tape is being sold for the cut-rate price of \$29.95, which is not a helluva lot more than the cost of his live show (and a helluva lot less than the scalper price).

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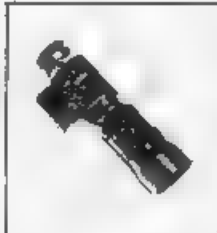
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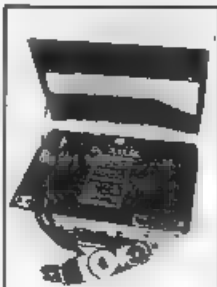
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BOOKS

● The underground press is back in print in Abe Peck's essential new book

BY DAVID SOLOMON

SPOTLIGHT ON THE '60s

Uncovering the Sixties: The Life and Times of the Underground Press, Edited by Abe Peck
Pantheon, New York. \$12.95 (paper), 364 pages.

● AS AN INDEX, AS REPORTAGE, AS analysis, and as well-reasoned insight, Abe Peck's *Uncovering the Sixties. The Life and Times of the Underground Press* is the best general book on America's most turbulent and Renaissance-like decade. While other books have provided important information and documentation on the various diverse movements toward freedom that come under the '60s banner—the civil rights and Black Power movement, the women's liberation movement, the gay rights movement, the anti-war effort, the psychedelics movement—this is the first broad-based account that gets toward some of the truth.

A '60s veteran himself, Peck brings to the book his personal experiences as an editor of Chicago's *Seed* and a writer for New York's *Rat*. But he also brings scrupulous research, including interviews with over one hundred characters of the times—Abbie Hoffman, Tom Robbins, Allen Ginsberg, Jane Alpert, Dana Beal, Cameron Crowe, Paul Krassner, Dave Marsh, Robin Morgan and Jerry Rubin are among those included. As Peck says in his preface: America's underground press created as well as recorded the '60s.

"The political movements," he says, "and the various lifestyle movements influenced each other, rejecting both an Imperialist foreign policy and a conformist way of life. But the mass media were shaped by the values and perceptions of the primarily white-middle-class male mainstream writers and editors. Their stories—often distorted, sometimes too correct—only proved how wide

the gap was between the two cultures."

The alienation felt by many Americans, but suffered most keenly by the young, created a gap. This gap between how life is experienced and how it is manipulated by media, created the need for, and the reception to, an alternative press.

And the underground press gave people ideas and inspiration—as well as information. Children of the '60s who thought that life in America's white middle-class meant suburbia, marriage, two clean kids and a car read the alternative papers only to discover that some people lived as poets, others experimented with LSD, and many thought Vietnam was a fucking bad idea. Black Americans in ghettoized pockets throughout the country who thought their lives were destined to remain inches away from Federal slavery in the form of meager-paying jobs and welfare, read the alternative press to find allegiance with those brave enough to demand that blacks not stay chained any longer. And

women read the underground press to discover that the rape, abuse and dissatisfaction they suffered from men was not their own personal problem but a problem that was first and foremost political.

For everybody in America, regardless of how involved with the times they became, the '60s were a time of national reconsideration. From hair styles to the national budget, from religion to sexual practice, the '60s were a period where everyone living in America did at least one thing we had never done before. Some of us did several.

We all learned from the underground press, whether from the pages of *Rat*, the *East Village Other*, the *LA Free Press*, the *Daily Worker*, off our backs, or *Come Out!* But as one underground alumnus, Chip Berlett put it, the primary self-adopted purpose of the underground press was "culture-shock treatment and metaphysical alternatives to plasticized consumerist materialism." Sometimes, while we were shocking and even as we were learning, we still didn't know what we were learning or why.

At the peak year of protest in the United States, 1969, there were at least 500 alternative papers serving communities and constituencies worldwide—not to mention the hundreds of high-school and college papers adding to the voices of dissension. The word was out, certainly; it's just that so many of us didn't know what to do with it and some of those who did manipulated it at the rest of our expense.

Probably the most important aspect of Peck's book is his critical relationship to his own '60s involvement and that of others. In 1985 it's possible to see that the failure of the '60s to seriously and permanently transform this country into an equitable and livable place was really a failure of ourselves. Sometimes, and obviously too often, we lied to ourselves and to each other. Peck's handling of the mistakes made in and by our own press, our leaders, and ourselves is important. Mistakes that glare in the account of Chicago '68 but can also be gleaned from any former activist's self-reflexive memories of meetings, consciousness-raising sessions, etc.—Peck's commitment to putting those critical insights on paper prove that it's possible for us to try again.

Although time is inevitable, it is still a gift—we now have hindsight; it was impossible to have hindsight before, and often it seemed it was equally impossible for us to have foresight. Peck's book is evidence of the education hindsight enforces.

Our failure isn't absolute. The enemy didn't win because of their strength—more often, we lost because of our weakness.



● Feminist version of New York's *Rat*.

Most of the newspapers Peck uncovers are dead. But some are not. With this book and others (hopefully forthcoming) like it, we need to look at what survived and why. We know why Jerry Rubin survives—stockbrokers usually do. But what about the collective alternative periodicals that are still around: what are their specific and peculiar strengths,

and what can we learn from them?

The alienation we all feel in 1985 is not different from the misery we all felt in 1955. The government has nothing to do with who the majority of us are and how the majority of us live. Neither does the media. Peck's book reminds that we were better just a few years back. We can be better again. ●

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Editorial content: News and reviews of independent publishing, filmmaking, television, radio, comics. Analysis of mass media
Founded: 1973 by Tom Forcade, founder of HIGH TIMES.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

107 S. Central Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 983-8892

Editor: Larry Stojaken

Editorial content: Updates on wind, photovoltaics, hydro and co-generation industries
Founded: 1972

ALTERNATIVE DESIGN

1011 West Peachtree
Atlanta, GA 30304
(404) 873-5623

Publisher: Deborah Eason

Editor: Alix Knagy

Founded: 1972

THE FIFTH ESTATE

5928 Second Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202
(313) 831-6800

Editor: Collective

Editorial content: Anti-state, anti-technology, anti-capitalist, primitivist
Founded: 1965

FREE SPIRIT

34 Prospect Pl.
Brooklyn, NY 11217
(718) 638-6990

Editor: Paul English

Editorial content: Local articles, excerpts from top newsletters
Founded: 1970

LEFT COMMUNITARIAN NEWS

167 Tremont Street, #5
Boston, MA 02111
(617) 426-4469

Publisher: Bromfield Street

Editor: Gordon Gottlieb

Founded: 1973

GUARDIAN

33 West 17th Street
New York, NY 10011
(212) 691-0404

Publisher: Institute for Independent

Social Journalism

Editor: William A. Ryan

Editorial content: News

Founded: 1948

OFF OUR BACKS

1841 Columbia Road NW, #212
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 234-8072, 8092

Editor: Collective editorship

Editorial content: Radical feminist

Founded: 1970

PROGRESSIVE PLETT

P.O. Box 838
Boston, MA 02215
(617) 267-4255

Editor: Cosmo Wyatt

Editorial content: News and reviews of progressive music trade and artists, including contemporary, r&b, jazz, fusion, new wave
Founded: 1976

THE PUBLIC WYE

343 S. Dearborn St., #918
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 663-5751

Publisher: Citizens in Defense of Civil Liberties

Editor: Chip Berlet

Editorial content: News features relating to repression and civil liberties
Founded: 1977

RISE, PROLETARIAN

P.O. Box 15691
San Diego, CA 92115
(619) 284-5005

Editor: Mike Johnson

Editorial content: Academic studies of music labeled "punk" and "hardcore", a forum for opinions
Founded: 1984

STEVENS IN RADICAL THERAPY

R.R. #1
Springfield, IL 62707
(217) 525-2977

Publisher: Cooperative Power Inc

Editor: I.R.T. Collective

Founded: 1973

KA HULIAU

P.O. Box 61337
Honolulu, HI 96822-8337
(808) 841-2942

Publisher: Hawaii Education for Social Progress

Editor: Roland Kotani

Editorial content: Coverage of labor, women's issues, minorities, community struggles, etc., in Hawaii and the Pacific region
Founded: 1982

LANCASTER INDEPENDENT PRESS

P.O. Box 275
Lancaster, PA 17605
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Publisher: L.I.P.

Editor: M.R. Carey and Steve Sylvester

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Publisher: Jim Paul

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NORML's Message to Political Leaders

With federal budget deficits at record highs, government must take steps to balance the budget. But while Democrats and Republicans argue over who to tax and how much, the deficit worsens.

Yet, this year over 30 million Americans will take advantage of an immense tax loophole. They will evade paying over \$15 billion in tax revenue. Isn't it time to stop this tremendous drain on our nation's economic resources?

American agricultural entrepreneurs have created a new revenue source for our economy, despite resistance and interference from the government bureaucracy. This new market represents an economic boon for America's farmers, and a potential new source of tax revenue.

Despite government interference, this crop has become the largest agricultural commodity in the United States larger than wheat, corn, or soybeans. The farmers, wholesalers, and retailers of this crop earn over \$30 billion a year without paying a penny in taxes.

These entrepreneurs have enjoyed an

unprecedented free market under both Republican and Democratic administrations, but we think it's time the government makes them pay their fair share of tax dollars. As recently as 1982 the National Academy of Sciences recommended the regulation of this important new cash crop, just as a Presidential Commission did 10 years ago. Opponents claim that, like tobacco, it is harmful to health. Yet the government subsidizes the tobacco market so farmers can receive \$1.70 a pound, while it outlaws this new crop which would bring farmers ten times that without government subsidy.

What is this new crop? Well, so much misinformation has been spread about it that you probably haven't guessed. It's marijuana, one of the most lucrative and wide-spread "tax shelters" of all time. Marijuana policy has been an expensive failure America can no longer afford. Bring it under control, keep it away from children, create new tax revenues, take billions of dollars from crime, fund a credible drug education program, and help reduce the deficit.

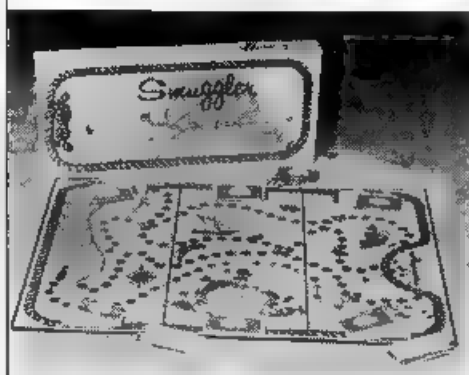
Marijuana, it's time for a new look.

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FILM

continued from page 88

hour documentary about Chinese-Americans, and producing and directing a TV program about Chinatown. Then with \$22,500 in grants from the American Film Institute and the National Endowment for the Arts, Wang shot his first feature, the 16-millimeter black-and-white *Chan Is Missing*.

Wang's modest expectations for *Chan* were quickly exceeded when the film was selected for the 1982 New Directors/New Films series in New York, received rave reviews, and played successfully in theaters across the country. And immediately after its release, Wang began working on three different projects. But when a major-studio film was set to go into production at the same time as *Dim Sum*, Wang had to make a tough decision and drop one of the projects. "The glitzy Hollywood dream machine was very attractive," he admits, "but I just said finally, 'I have to do what's close to my heart and do something smaller and more intimate before I jump into something like that.'"

Wang first conceived of *Dim Sum* while filming a scene for *Chan*. He saw a row of shoes at the foot of the stairs in a Chinese home, and decided to make a movie about the people who belonged to them. "The Asian custom of removing the shoes before entering the house is so that you don't bring the outside world in," he explains. "In a sense that's a perfect metaphor for the Chinese home in *Dim Sum*. As far as the mother is concerned, it is her home, it is Chinese, and she doesn't want to know what's happening outside." Likewise, it is an apt metaphor for the ways in which the outside (American) world whittles away at the ancient (Chinese) traditions which the older generation attempts to protect.

In *Dim Sum* those customs manifest themselves most clearly in food. "If you ask Chinese-Americans to name one very concrete thing that's Chinese about them," said Wang, "nine out of 10 times they will say the food. I think it's the most concrete denominator that will survive—and has survived. Even though it has gone through some permutations, I think it's the strongest thing that will carry through the traditions."

By keeping alive these traditions in his films, Wayne Wang is forging a new tradition: that of the Chinese-American filmmaker. And though his first two films have dealt directly with the Asian-American experience, Wang hopes to tackle different subjects in the future. "I know I'll always come back and be independent and maybe do some more films about the Chinese. But at the same time I want to do maybe something totally irrelevant," he adds with a chuckle, "like a teenage comedy." ●

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COLLEGES

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HUNTER COLLEGE New York

● Located in the heart of Manhattan (on Park Avenue, yet) Hunter is the essence of cool, owing in part to the school's large percentage of minority students. Here, black, Hispanic and Asian cultures merge and help give Hunter its unique, vibrant

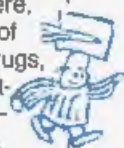
ambience. The myriad cultural activities and decadent diversions of the Big Apple are all within shouting distance of the campus, and these help make Hunter students among the most sophisticated—and hippest—in the country. The students are also very active politically, and a number of potent political figures appear at the school's new lecture halls each year. (Geraldine Ferraro made one of her first V.P. campaign speeches here.) The facilities at Hunter are state of the art: two new 17-story buildings were opened in 1983, and the college's main building will be completely renovated by early '87. An enlightened educational system allows students to earn credits for internships at places most college students can only dream about: CBS, the Museum of Modern Art, Sloan-Kettering Institute, the Manhattan

Theatre Club, the New York *Daily News*, etc. Credits are also awarded for community service, and Hunter students are noted for their good works among the dispossessed. Students emerge from Hunter not just prepared for the "real world," but having spent four years experiencing it.

ANTIOCH COLLEGE Yellow Springs, Ohio

● Antioch is another college where the spirit of the '60s is very much alive, so much so that the administration feels a need to change the school's image, and has pumped up its PR campaign to try and do so. But no mere public-relations campaign is going to change the attitudes of Antioch students, who are among the most socially and politically aware in the nation. Antioch is one campus where you won't find yahoos cheering Reagan's Rambo-style invasion of tiny Grenada. Antioch students

are strongly anti-war, anti-nuke, anti-Reagan, pro-choice on abortion, pro-feminist, pro-sexual freedom for everyone—in short, they're on the good side of just about every important issue. And unlike the students on many campuses, Antioch students realize that these issues are just as important in the '80s as they were in the '60s. Educational policies at Antioch have long been among the most advanced and creative in the country. This is one of the few colleges that values life experience as much as classroom experience. Students are required to leave campus twice a year for co-ops, which entail working at interesting jobs out in the real world. Psychedelic drugs are very popular here, as is '60s music and sex of every description. Sex, drugs, rock 'n' roll and an enlightened educational policy—now *that's* a cool college.



COMING IN DECEMBER

● **THE REAL NICARAGUAN CONNECTION:** The Red-baiting Reagan administration and its media mouthpieces would have you believe that the entire South American dope supply is funneled into the States by the fiendish efforts of the Sandinistas. The truth, however, is that the American-backed Somoza regime, which was overthrown by the Sandinistas, set standards of drug corruption that boggle the mind. In a startling excerpt from a book called *Flying High*, author Wayne Greenhaw, who had unlimited access to DEA files, dishes the dirt on the Somozista dope movers. ● **PRAISE THE LORD AND PHONE IN YOUR PLEDGE:** Today's TV evangelists are latter-day tent show hucksters with tents as big as the heavens, thanks to communications satellites. Selling the snake oil of salvation with superslick presentations, these pop preachers rake in megabucks with their blend of Jesus Christ and Jerry Lewis-style telethon. Writer Ann Magnuson casts a cynical eye at these fatcat fundamentalists and files a fascinating—and funny—report on TV's religious revival. ● **AIDS AND DRUGS:** When we ran a Highwitness News report on the relationship between AIDS and intravenous drug use a few months back, the reaction was overwhelming. Newspapers ran favorable reports on our "campaign" to warn readers about the AIDS-IV-injection connection. Veterans groups working with 'Nam-vet addicts and other addiction centers besieged us with requests for copies of the story and any other information we might have on the subject. Next month we're proud—and more than a little sad—to present the definitive report on AIDS and intravenous drug use, based on exhaustive research by writer Pat Califia. The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta has already requested a copy of the article to aid in their fight against the dread disease. As usual, our readers will be the first to get the truth about this fast-breaking drug story. ● **PLUS:** Midnight Oil burns Australia with hot rock and fiery politics; over-the-counter cold remedies could be more dangerous than dope; and Coca-Cola fucks with its formula—could cocaine be the reason? ●

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